

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE

Thursday, June 9, 2011

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Protest on pylon bid in line for huge boost

CAMPAIGNERS FIGHTING plans which could see pylons built across Oswestry and the borders were given a massive boost this week.

Shropshire Council is set to formally oppose any pylons being built in the county as part of a scheme to transfer power from wind farms in Mid Wales to the national grid in Shropshire.

The council will also tell National Grid that if it insists on running the cables through Shropshire, they must run underground.

National Grid wants to build a substation in Mid Wales to collect the energy from the wind farms and a 400,000 volt line carrying power to Shropshire. It is now carrying out the first stage of public consultation.

At its meeting next Wednesday, Shropshire Council's cabinet members will discuss the council's response to the consultation.

Councillor Mal Price, cabinet member for planning, said: "Shropshire is a rural county where the attractive rural landscape makes a significant contribution to the economy.

"The impact of a 400kv overhead line connection is considered to be significantly detrimental to this and Shropshire Council would object on these grounds to any overhead line solution."

Trial is due on murders

A 59-YEAR-OLD Shropshire man was due to stand trial today accused of killing three men 17 years ago.

Robin Stanislaw Ligus, originally from Shrewsbury, was charged in September last year with the murders of Trevor Bradley, Brian Coles and Bernard Czerwinski following a cold case review.

Mr Bradley, 53, of Ludlow, was found in a burned-out car near Melverley, Oswestry, in April 1994. The body of Mr Coles, 57, was found six months later at his home near Whitechurch, while Mr Czerwinski, 36, of Shrewsbury, was found in the River Severn in 1994.

The trial at Birmingham Crown Court is due to last several weeks.

Clubhouse plans on view

AMBITIOUS PLANS have been revealed for a new clubhouse development at Llanymynech Golf Club.

The plans - at the club where former world number one Ian Woosnam started his career - will be on display in the current clubhouse until the end of the month.

Two separate plans have been drawn up for one and two storey facilities at the course, which is split by Offa's Dyke and is the only golf course where you can play in two countries during one round of golf. One of the

EXCLUSIVE: Graham Breeze

plans involves the construction of separate stewards' accommodation along with five twin stay-and-play rooms.

Club members have been invited to inspect the plans and will then be asked to attend an extraordinary annual meeting to decide which route to take. The plans have been drawn up as part of a long-term exercise which should see developments beginning by the end of 2012.

"The development will be project-managed to the benefit of the members and the opportunity is there for all members to have their input," said secretary Howard Jones.

"The overall cost will be determined by the route the members decide."

The plans were boosted last month when it was announced that the club had managed to complete the purchase of the golf course five years ahead of schedule. Once the preferred option is decided the plans will go Powys County Council for approval.



Club boost - Llanymynech Golf Club

Court date after death of break-in victim, 87

ONE MAN remains in custody and another is on bail after an Oswestry pensioner died a month after being attacked in his own home.

Charles Green, 87, of Ambleside Road, died last Thursday in the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital after being seriously injured during a break-in during the early hours of May 2.

Daniel Keeble, of no fixed abode, will appear at Shrewsbury Crown Court on July 25 for a plea and case management hearing.

He first appeared before magistrates on May 24 charged with entering the property as a trespasser on May 2 where he was alleged to have stolen a passport, bank savings book and paperwork and have subjected Mr Green to violence.

A second man aged 23, who was arrested in connection with the offence, is currently on police bail pending further investigations.

Mr Green's son Terry spoke of his sadness at his death. "All the members of the family are so sad to lose our father, grandfather and great-grandfather," he said.

And grandson Lee Davies said: "He was a very loving man to all his family."

Police said investigations were continuing and a post mortem result was awaited. They have renewed their appeal for information.

Detective Inspector Mick Horden said: "Further inquiries will now be carried out. The incident happened at about 2.45am on May 2 when Mr Green awoke to find two men in his house."

Picnic fun at town's park

OSWESTRY'S newly-reformed Chamber of Commerce is to stage its first public event - a massive Picnic In The Park.

Chamber members are organising the event in Cae Glas Park on June 26.

Rachel Edwards is helping organise the function. "This is not just for the business community, it's for everyone."

Children can go in fancy dress and the fun will include a magician and bouncy castle. The picnic is at 12noon until 4pm.

MARINA BID HIT BY FUNDS CRISIS

PLANS FOR an iconic marina development on the edge of Oswestry have stalled after a funding bid was rejected.

Developers behind the scheme for the canal at Queen's Head had hoped to attract cash from the newly-formed Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

But the LEP has now lost out on a £36million bid to the Government's Regional Growth Fund, delivering a blow to the marina plans.

Bosses at Shropshire firm Morris Leisure say their ambitious plans included a marina for canal boats and a five star touring caravan park.

The firm has bought 25 acres of canal-side land for the development next to the Montgomery Canal and Aston Nature Reserve.

The area is listed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Setback

Edward Goddard, Morris Leisure's managing director, said: "We have been working and consulting closely with British Waterways, Montgomery Canal Restoration Trust, Shropshire Council and other interested parties and the news is a huge setback.

"But we are already looking at whether we should go for a phase two submission so this is not the end for us. But it is a setback.

"This area has already been identified in the Local Plan as an ideal location for an iconic leisure development."

Morris Leisure is already well known in the caravan industry through its ownership of four high

EXCLUSIVE by Graham Breeze

quality caravan parks in Shropshire and Snowdonia.

As a result of the funding refusal Shirehall leaders are voicing "grave concern" that rural areas of Shropshire are not getting a fair funding deal from government.

The Shropshire Council Cabinet is next week expected to approve a "strong lobbying campaign" through county MPs and business leaders in an attempt to get more economic aid.

The LEP is now considering lobbying government, as well as exploring the viability of re-submitting any of the unsuccessful bids to round two of the RGF. The deadline for submitting bids is July 1.

Councillor Mike Owen, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for economic growth and prosperity, said: "We are extremely disappointed that the LEP's bid for Regional Growth Fund money was unsuccessful and we want the Government to recognise that rural areas such as Shropshire and the Marches can also make a real impact on enterprise creation and private sector job growth."

Upset beavers on a mission



THESE YOUNGSTERS were on a real mission when they got together at their local Beavers meeting in Gobowen this week.

Each one of the group got straight down to work to write a

hard-hitting letter to the most powerful man in the country after being left devastated by a break-in at their Scout hut.

And by the end of their lengthy writing session, a desk-full of letters was ready to be posted off to London.

● To find out the reason for the letters and just who was being called into action, see

page 4

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Hospital aims to have new entrance by next spring



An artist's impression of how Oswestry's orthopaedic hospital will look after the work is carried out

OSWESTRY'S ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL will get a new main entrance by next spring and local contractors will carry out the work.

Paveaways of Knockin have won the tender to carry out the building work which will improve visitor and patient access and drop-off parking.

The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust (RJAH) announced the decision yesterday but refused to reveal the cost of the investment.

The entrance will include a League of Friends welcome point, coffee shop and retail shop, as well as conference facilities and will be integrated into the newly-refurbished outpatient department.

David James, RJAH director of oper-

ations said: "We are delighted the Trust will be working with Paveaways again."

"They have completed a number of projects onsite over the years and it is very pleasing that a local firm is undertaking this project."

He added that the 10-month construction work by Paveaways is being managed by the trust's estates department in conjunction with project managers, Capita Symonds.

General manager of Paveaways, Steven Owen, said: "We are committed to supporting the local community - 75 per cent of the workforce on the construction project live within a 12-mile radius of the hospital and we also source materials from the local area, wherever possible."

The plans will improve privacy and dignity, by separating the majority of inpatients and clinic patients, as well as maintaining the high standards of infection control within the specialist orthopaedic hospital.

This will reduce traffic on the main hospital corridor which has become increasingly busy as the hospital treats more patients.

The development will improve security with the formation of a central entrance to the hospital.

Chief executive, Wendy Farrington Chadd said: "The development will improve the face of the hospital, providing a much-needed single entrance."

"It is fantastic that we have been able to appoint a local contractor to undertake this prestigious development which will support the hospital in delivering outstanding patient care."

Consultants appointed to fill medical posts



Naveen Kumar



Dr Atheer Al-Ansari

TWO SENIOR consultant positions have been filled at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital at Oswestry.

Mr Naveen Kumar has been appointed consultant surgeon in spinal injuries and rehabilitation medicine and Dr Atheer Al-Ansari has joined as consultant rheumatologist.

Mr Kumar has been employed for the last year at the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries (MCSI). A UK resident since 2004, he began his medical career in India, where he qualified in 1998.

Spinal

He has worked at Glasgow, the North West Regional Spinal Injuries Unit at Southport and at the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville.

Dr Al-Ansari was previously a consultant rheumatologist in Weston-Super-Mare. He will lead the community rheumatology service in Telford and brings the number of consultant rheumatologists to four at Oswestry. A graduate of Baghdad University Medical School, Dr Al-Ansari also trained in Dublin and Glasgow, before his first consultant appointment in 2009 in the west country.

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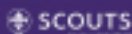
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Playhouse dream to become a reality

A MORDA woman's dream of creating a playhouse for her village school made out of recycled items is about to come true thanks to a £3,000 grant.

Rachel Edwards runs Replayit and provides manufacturing by-products to create imaginative play equipment and areas for children.

Now her hopes of constructing a play building at Morda School made completely of recycled goods is about to become a reality thanks to £3,000 funding from the UnLtd Millennium Award Scheme.

The awards scheme has been set up to source funds for social entrepreneurs.

"I have arranged a project to build a recycled green building from plastic bottles and recycled materials at my children's school.

"Wood has been collected and 700 two-litre plastic bottles," said Rachel.

"Wood has been donated from local businesses, parents have offered donations and time and the Tudor Griffiths company has offered their support.

She added: "The children are involved in the design process.

"The finished building will house manufacturing by-products for free imaginative play.

"My ambition is to replicate this project in several primary schools in the Oswestry area.

"I want to give these 'rubbish' piles new life in my community by helping people understand that you do not have to spend £50 in Argos to have fun with your children."

Rachel plans to get the Morda scheme started in early July and completed by the time the children return to school after the summer holidays.

Meeting date

THE NEXT meeting of the Forden Friendly Circle is due to take place tomorrow at 2pm at the community centre in Forden, near Welshpool.

Supermarkets may join as Pubwatch aims to expand

by Graham Breeze

OSWESTRY SUPERMARKETS will be asked to join the town's Pubwatch scheme.

Publicans want to expand their group from just pubs to allow restaurants and supermarkets to become involved.

It would mean anyone banned from pubs would also be stopped from entering these premises too.

Tickets now up for grabs

VINTAGE MACHINERY and crafts will be on show at Oswestry Showground next week and the Oswestry & Border Chronicle has six family tickets up for grabs.

Clywd Veteran and Vintage Machinery Society are holding their 33rd annual vintage vehicle and craft show at Park Hall on June 18 and 19.

To claim your tickets - which admit two adults and two children worth £13 - simply call at the Oswestry & Border Chronicle office at 14 Salop Road, Oswestry. But move quickly as the tickets will be given out on a first come, first served basis.

Spectators at the show will be able to view hundreds of vintage vehicles including steam engines, tractors, vintage horticultural and garden machinery and vintage commercial vehicles.

There will be entertainment in the ring throughout both days including parades of vintage vehicles. Other ring entertainment planned includes Wilf's One Man JCB Dancing Digger Display, a dog and duck show, riding for the disabled and shire horses. The event opens at 10am and continues until 5pm, with ticket prices £6, children £3.50 or £13 for a family.

Frank Francis, chairman, said he felt it made sense to include shops that sold alcohol as well. He said supermarkets had expressed an interest.

"Restaurants can suffer from the same problems as pubs. Pubwatch aims to protect people going to the premises and the staff there.

Banned

"Pubwatch has been going for four or five years and people are aware if they do something wrong they are banned from socialising altogether.

"According to the police the violence at night has dropped and I think it is down to the pubs standing together and people knowing they are banned.

"People are now starting to behave better."

Shropshire Councillor Bill Benyon said: "It is a good idea to include supermarkets and restaurants. Anybody who sells alcohol should be involved.

"The Pubwatch seems to have got off the ground. It is a deterrent to people who misbehave. It is a good thing for the town."

Councillor Benyon said that Oswestry was not the only town that had problem drinkers. "People like drinking everywhere," he said.

There are currently 26 members in the Pubwatch and a meeting is held once a month.

Members are hoping to invite guest speakers to their meetings each month, such as the council and Oswestry Chamber of Commerce.

The next meeting will be held on July 5.

All smiles as youth club launched



Members are pictured having fun at the new youth club. Picture: Laura Duffield

SCHOOL HAS become child's play for youngsters in a village on the Powys/Shropshire border.

Llangedwyn Primary School has launched an after-hours youth club for all seven to 11-year-olds in the area.

The first session was held on Tuesday and the club will meet in the school every Tuesday from 7 to 9pm.

The launch coincides with plans for the school to raise its profile in the

day night when plans for the future were discussed.

Miss Chandler said: "It was a well attended and very positive meeting.

"We had a really good discussion on our future plans, including a decision to form a Friends of the School group," she added.

The first meeting of the new group was due to be held at the school at 2.30pm today (Thursday).

NEWS

in brief

Night will focus on crime writing

CRIME EXPERTS will be in Oswestry to help celebrate National Crime Writing Week.

Elly Griffiths, a crime novelist, and Paul Beeton, from the forensic services department, will be at the town library on June 16.

The CSI Oswestry event starts at 7pm and promises to be a unique treat for crime fiction fans.

Mr Beeton has worked for West Mercia Police for almost 30 years and has been involved in the investigation of murders and suspicious deaths both as a crime scene investigator and as a senior crime scene manager.

He will be talking to audiences about the forensic investigation of crimes in Shropshire and his responsibilities as a crime scene manager for major incidents throughout the West Mercia area.

The event has been organised by Shropshire Council and Booksa Bookshop, in Church Street.

For more information or to book your ticket, priced £5.50, call Booksa on (01691) 662244 or call Oswestry Library on (01691) 677388.

Acclaimed band in town concert

RHYTHM AND Blues sensation Vintage Trouble are on their way to Oswestry after wowing critics on the BBC's Later with Jools Holland.

The Los Angeles-based band will be blasting out their powerful sound at The Ironworks on June 19.

Following their performance on Jools Holland, the band became the sixth most trending topic of the day on Twitter.

Tickets at £6 are available via Seetickets.com, Vintage Trouble.com/shows or tikiticketline.com, the-ironworks.com, or, if there are any tickets, left £8 on the door.

Council in talks

THE ANNUAL meeting of Welshpool Town Council will take place on June 22 in the council chamber of the town hall at 7pm.

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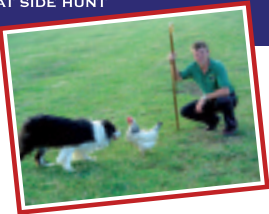
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Scouts turn to PM in plea for aid after raid

YOUNGSTERS FROM an Oswestry area scout group have gone right to the top in appealing for help after their headquarters was ransacked by intruders.

They have written to Prime Minister David Cameron asking him to help track down the culprits.

The hut, in Station Road, Gobowen, was targeted by yobs who caused more than £800 damage. The door was forced open and thieves took a PA system valued at £500. Leaders also discovered four Swiss army knives were missing.

Cupboards and rooms were left in a mess after the intruders carried out a big search of the premises, leaving crafts, pencils and paper scattered over the floor. Now the youngsters have written letters to Mr Cameron asking for help to find those responsible.

Brenda Cassidy, group scout leader, said of the raid: "They just pulled all the stuff out of the cupboards. They stole the CD player and cut all the padlocks off the doors."

"The beavers, who are aged between six years old and eight years old, were quite upset."

"They were very sad to see the mess. I have got them to write letters to the Prime Minister."

She added: "They have written to say please can you help us find the people who did this."

Costly

The scout group has about 60 youngsters and 10 leaders involved and is self-funding.

Mrs Cassidy said: "I don't know what they thought we had in the scout hut and whatever they took they took from the children. It is the lowest of the low."

Scout leaders will be meeting next week to see if they can afford to replace the PA system.

Mrs Cassidy said: "It is debatable if we can replace the sound system. They are very costly."

Shropshire Councillor Steve Charmley said: "This really is a great shame."

"Gobowen Scout Group is a great community group that provides life skills for all its members."

"I am currently helping the group find some funding to repair the damage."

"Those responsible should be thoroughly ashamed of their actions and realise the distress that they have caused."

The break-in was discovered when people turned up for their annual meeting and the incident is thought to have happened between May 19 and 20.

Allotment group aims for the top

AN AWARD-WINNING allotment group is going for gold after completing the designs for its entry to Shrewsbury Flower show.

Oswestry Gateacre Garden and Allotments Association has unveiled its exhibit for the show next month called "Granny's Garden".

The exhibit was dreamt up by Alan Brooks and includes stained glass arch windows and a garden bench.

Members of the association won gold at the famous flower show last year after creating a mini garden in the Quarry Marquee.



Lily Reade, six, of Gobowen Beavers, who are part of the 1st Gobowen Scout Group, posts her letter to Prime Minister David Cameron about their scout hut being broken into.

Olympic theme to inspire children

YOUNGSTERS FROM the Welshpool area will benefit from the legacy of the London 2012 Olympics.

Powys County Council has revealed plans for three new sporting events that have been inspired by the games and aim to involve thousands of children across the county.

Plans include the introduction of a School Games for secondary schools, where pupils will compete for medals in 11 Olympic sports and paralympic events.

A special website will be introduced where pupils can keep up to date with their school's progress, and competition venues will be branded with banners and flags to bring colour and excitement to each event.

Also being introduced will be an "X Games" festival featuring extreme sports such as mountain biking and skateboarding.

Mini Olympic Festivals will also be launched in every primary school cluster area.

The plans were launched by former Welsh Olympian Matt Elias who will be the "Inspired By 2012 Champion". Matt said: "I am delighted to be involved and I hope these plans will inspire children and young people in Powys."

Gymnastics fun

LANFAIR CAEREINION gymnastics club will be holding a fun day on July 16. The event will be held at Rhiwriarth Community Centre, near Llanfair Caereinion, from 2pm.

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TOWN CENTRE

Problem solved as rail chiefs sort out crossing

MOBILITY SCOOTER USERS in Oswestry are back on track – after railway chiefs helped save them from being left stranded on a crossing.

Disability campaigners contacted Oswestry Town Council calling for action after several scooter users, including the town's former mayor Margaret Chamberlain, reported their scooter wheels were getting stuck between the railway lines on Coney Green.

The problem left them stranded halfway across the crossing and having to call for help to free themselves.

But now Nigel Davies, chairman of Cambrian Heritage Railways, says he has created a route across one side of the track with a wooden structure.

The covering is made of wood with rubber on top and is secured in place with nails. It was installed on Tuesday and covers the gaps in the rails.

Alleviate

It will now be monitored for the next couple of months. Mr Davies said: "We have done something temporary that will allow the railway to operate."

"We have set a route up for people to go along on one side of the crossing."

"We have constructed specific structures to allow for the covering of the rail and the edges."

He said he had identified 11 specific gaps that will be covered on the days when the trains are not in operation.

He said: "The railway is helping as best we can to alleviate the problem for the public."

Oswestry and District Access Group chairwoman Angela Bright said it was great news.

"It sounds positive and they have reacted very quickly. You can't have vulnerable people stuck on a railway line. I am grateful for all the support we have had in this."

Shropshire Councillor Martin Bennett said: "I am happy with the temporary solution and I hope it turns out to be a permanent solution."

"It is also encouraging that the reaction of the Cambrian Heritage Railways is so positive."

Steve Oakley, Shropshire Council highways manager, said: "We have received a letter raising the issue from Oswestry Town Council, sent on behalf of Oswestry Access Group."

"We have shared these concerns with the Cambrian Railway Society which is responsible for the crossing. We understand that the issue will be raised at the next board meeting and are awaiting a response."

Business booming for top class pupils

GIRLS AT Oswestry's Moreton Hall school have bucked the business trend by doubling profits for their in-house retail business.

The Year 12 girls saw turnover increase by 50 per cent to £50,000 last year and profits rise by 100 per cent.

Moreton Enterprises has been running at Moreton Hall school for 25 years giving hundreds of sixth formers hands-on experience of running every aspect of their own businesses.

Invest

Business has boomed since the opening of the new shopping mall, known as the Enterprise Centre, which houses a smoothie bar, tuck shop, gift shop, a branch of Barclays Bank and a Ryman stationery store.

When the management team, all run by the school's sixth form students, made the decision in 2008 to invest in the building of the new shopping centre, the girls were aware of the risk they were taking.

However, the investment has paid off and plans are under way to further develop the initiative.

Jess Richards, last year's managing director, said: "I'm so proud of my team's achievements. We were all aware how lucky we were to be given the responsibility of running the new centre and were determined to make it a success."



Evie Snow, finance director of Moreton Enterprises 2010, and Jess Richards, last year's managing director

"We focused on the need for constant innovation and introduced a number of new products and services for pupils, staff and parents to purchase."

Evie Snow, last year's finance director, added: "The role has given me a real insight into the financial manage-

ment and reporting that goes on behind the scenes in a business."

"As a linguist, not a mathematician, Moreton Enterprises has given me an extra dimension to my education that I would otherwise not have experienced."

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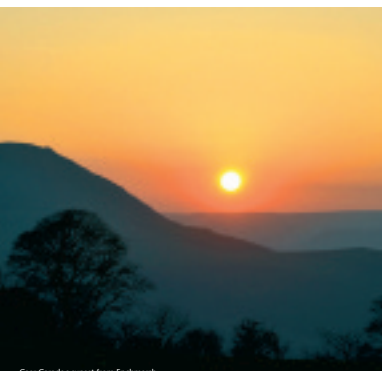
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VIP guest agrees to carry out service

WORSHIPPERS IN a Shropshire village will take part in a confirmation service later this month taken by a former Archbishop of Canterbury.

Dr George Carey has accepted an invitation from one of his oldest friends to conduct the service at Whittington Parish Church, near Oswestry.

Churchwarden Don Howard said candidates for confirmation were surprised to discover they would be confirmed by Dr Carey.

Mr Howard said: "The churchwardens decided to invite Dr Carey at the suggestion of the Reverend Philip Crowe, a retired clergyman who lives in Babbinswood. He and Dr Carey were colleagues together in the 1960s at Oak Hill College and are godparents to each other's children.

"Lord Carey responded to the invitation immediately and said that he would be honoured. He was unable to come on the date originally suggested, St John the Baptist's Day, owing to other commitments, but he offered to come on Whit Sunday, on June 12.

"There are 14 adults and young people attending preparation classes."

Garden trail

A GARDEN trail is being organised by Llanymynech Gardening Club on Tuesday. Members and visitors should meet at Four Crosses Car Park at 6.15pm. More details available on (01938) 590508.

Group's fundraising is in memory of tragic TT racer

AN OSWESTRY-based motorcycling organisation is helping to raise funds following the death of a Ruyton-XI-Towns man during the Isle of Man TT races.

Sidecar passenger Kevin Morgan, 59, was killed in a practice session with driver Bill Currie, 67, from Ellesmere Port last week.

Members of the Road Racing Legends group wasted little time organising fundraising on the island in memory of the pair. Legends official Phil Morris said: "It is a devastating blow and we are all stunned at Kevin's death.

"He was very well known to the Road Racing Legends group and everyone is very saddened that this accident has happened. The Road Racing Legends have raised nearly

Vital talks to focus on the future

A VITAL MEETING to help secure the future of an Oswestry centre has been called by its trustees.

The Kingswell Centre, in Arthur Street, lost funding for its family/drugs support worker.

Trustees want to continue the Kingswell Centre services and have secured £20,000 from the Government's transition fund to allow them to look for future direction.

One plan is to see if social action groups, including the Jubilee Money Advice Centre, the food bank and a soup kitchen, are prepared to work alongside them. A meeting will be held at the Whole Life Centre, Cabin Lane Church, tomorrow from 7.30pm.

£85,000 in the last six years.

"We are working alongside the TT bosses to organise collections at the Parade Of Champions and an auction of memorabilia.

"Kevin was a very experienced and well known sidecar racer and he will be greatly missed by the motorcycling world. Our thoughts are with his family."

Mr Morgan leaves two sons and a daughter. He had told his former racing partner that it would be his last TT race. Cliff Pritchard, from Shrewsbury, was Mr Morgan's driver for 20 years from 1982 to 2003. The pair won the very first Formula Two sidecar championship at the TT in 1984.

"We had a great 20 years, racing all over Britain, Ireland and in Belgium. When you are racing like that you have to really know each other and trust each other."

Mr Pritchard said Mr Morgan had opened his own garage, Sarn Garage in Newtown. He sold the business and started driving, working for Pentons of Oswestry.

Barber's novel a cut above the rest

AN OSWESTRY barber, photographer and artist has added another string to his bow – that of writer.

Julian D Bound's new novel, *The Geisha and The Monk*, was inspired by two of his huge oil paintings.

One, *The Geisha*, hangs in his barber's shop, *The Barber Shop 2*, in Oswestry.

"After I had done both pictures, I started to wonder what might happen if those two people – both from my imagination – met, and then I started writing," he said.

The novel, written in three parts, follows the story of a boy and a girl, both born in 1876, but thousands of miles apart.

The first part tells the story of Momoko from the suburbs of Kyoto and her training as a geisha in Tokyo and the second follows Tenzin, born in a small Tibetan village in the foothills of the Himalayas, and schooled for life as a Buddhist monk.

As the 20th century dawns, and both have reached the age of 24, they are destined to meet. The third part of the novel reveals how they discover the causes for the special union their souls hold.

Mr Bound had a London publisher interested but plans to print it fell through as the recession started to bite in 2009. But now *The Geisha and The Monk* is available for sale at www.amazon.co.uk for downloading on Kindle and Kindle applications for PCs, Mac, iPhone and iPad at a cost of £2.88.

Although the book has only been available on the internet for a week, there has already been sales in both the UK and USA.

Born in Oswestry, Mr Bound, 41,



Julian D Bound who has now taken up writing

opened his own hairdressers, *The Barber Shop* in Oswestry in 1996.

"I had always been interested in the East and in Buddhism and in 2001, I sold the shop and my house and car and went off to Thailand," he said.

For the next four years he was a vol-

unteer worker in an orphanage. But in 2006 he returned to Oswestry to pursue his interest in painting and writing and in 2009 opened *The Barber Shop 2*. Mr Bound also works as a photojournalist and covered the riots in Bangkok and, this year, the unrest in Cairo.

NEWS

in brief

Success as trip helps children

YOUNGSTERS at a Kenyan primary school no longer have to study on a concrete floor thanks to the efforts of an Ellesmere couple.

Bill and Lynne Morris have recently returned from a visit to Kwale Primary School, near Mombasa, after the headmaster contacted the pair with a request for 50 desks.

The plea for the equipment was sent to the couple through their website www.kenyanschoolsproject.co.uk.

The pair from Ellesmere run the Kenyan Schools Project and like to visit the country twice a year to meet those who benefit from its work.

Mr Morris, who works for Cadbury in Chirk, said: "It was the first time we have received a request for desks from the website so it shows the website works. This recent trip was also the first time we have been to the school."

Power cut hits homes and firms

HOMELESS and businesses on Severn Road in Welshpool suffered a power failure on Monday afternoon.

A fault at Severn Road substation caused power to be lost to 62 properties in the Severn Street and Gilmour Court areas at 3.45pm.

"Engineers were sent to the site to fix the fault as quickly as we could and power supplies were restored at 5.50pm," said a spokesman for Scottish Power.

"We would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused – we had engineers working on the problem as quickly as we could."

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Chance to join huge survey of wildlife

RSPB CYMRU is asking people in the Welshpool area to stakeout their gardens for an hour this week, for the UK's largest summer wildlife survey.

And this year, as well as common garden birds, the wildlife charity is interested in creatures that are associated with water, such as frogs, newts and toads.

Thousands of people will keep their eyes peeled for wild visitors as part of the RSPB's Make Your Nature Count, running until June 12.

The RSPB is particularly concerned about how the early dry weather has affected wildlife and wants to highlight how important access to water is for many creatures.

As well as asking about adult birds and chicks, the charity wants to know about frogs, toads, great newts, stag beetles and even bats and snakes.

It will be the first time the RSPB has asked people to survey some of these creatures and will help produce a snapshot of how the species are doing.

Lara Hallett, RSPB Cymru Communications Officer said: "This survey also helps the RSPB see which species are thriving and which might need our help."

To take part, spend one hour until June 12 counting the birds and wildlife that visit your garden, and record the highest number of each species seen at any one time. For details visit www.rspb.org.uk/nature-count

Glimpse of how town's new youth centre will finally look

THIS IS how Oswestry's long-awaited new youth centre will look.

The Myplace £2.85million building will replace the former Centre North West in Oak Street.

The first brick is due to be laid on the site today with the completed centre expected to open in about 12 months time.

It will provide state-of-the-art facilities for Oswestry's young people, funded by various Government grants.

Funding

Centre North West was closed in May last year because of the state of the building, which had provided the town's youth with a meeting place and facilities for 40 years.

But it was feared that plans to replace the centre would not come to fruition when the scheme fell foul of the Government's spending review last autumn.

However, there was better news earlier this year as funding for the project was found.

Oswestry's Mayor, Councillor Cynthia Hawksley, said today: "The town council has been concerned at the delay, but we are delighted that progress is now being made to provide such an excellent facility in Oswestry."

Once complete, the energy-efficient centre will provide rooms for local musicians looking for practise space, ramps and skateboard equipment which will be used inside and outside the building, and provide a new

home for the town's St John's Ambulance Group.

Advice

There will also be a large coffee bar and kitchen, and young people will be able to speak to staff who can give advice on

careers, housing and much more. Local young people had been involved in the design of the new building and were keen to incorporate many "green" features.

They will include energy-saving elements such as roof windows to promote air circulation, removing the need for expensive air

conditioning. It will also have a striking roof garden.

Adrianne Piers, one of the young people involved in the project from the beginning, said: "I think this is a fantastic moment. I can't believe the first brick is soon going to be laid. I can't wait to see it open."



An artist's impression of how Oswestry's new youth centre will look

NEWS

in brief

Police warning for 'boy racers'

OSWESTRY POLICE have warned "boy racers" that they are clamping down on anti-social driving in and around the town.

Inspector Jim Stafford said officers had been told that drivers were using the Gateacre pavilion car park for anti-social driving and were upsetting residents.

"I don't like the term 'boy racers' - these are drivers who behave irresponsibly and are a real anti-social problem."

Inspector Stafford said some years ago Oswestry police had worked with Oswestry town council to rid the Central car park of the problem.

"Sergeant Conrad Smith, who led that project, has now returned to work in Oswestry and will be looking at anti-social driving in other areas of the town," he said.

Community day looks at safety

HEALTH AND safety issues are on the agenda in St Martins today (Thursday).

A community safety day is being held by the preventative services development team, from the Community Council of Shropshire.

Personal safety in the home, health and how you can help yourself will be discussed and there will be talks from Shropshire Fire & Rescue, West Mercia Police and the Falls Prevention Service. There will also be stalls including Age UK, CINCH, AAU, council benefits and more.

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Chamber has will to succeed

BUSINESS IN Oswestry might not be booming but there is a new Chamber of Commerce in place just buzzing with ideas to help promote trade.

The chamber met last week for the first time since new officers were found to ensure that the organisation didn't vanish off the map without trace.

And having attended the meeting, I am convinced that the only way is up for Oswestry. There is a new enthusiasm and a will to succeed about the chamber which can only be the best possible news for the local economy.

What these ambitious members now need is support from the community. Membership for businesses is just £20 for the year so I would encourage everyone to sign up for the next meeting on July 6.

And at The Chronicle we are so impressed that we are about to announce an exciting partnership to help support the town's business community. Watch out in next week's paper for the announcement!

THERE WAS good news this week with the announcement that Knockin company Paveways have been awarded the contract to build the new entrance to the Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Shame though that The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust (RJAH) refused to tell us how much is being spent on the project.

There can't be anything to hide because the cost will come out at some stage. So why they would not release the

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

with Graham Breeze



exact figure is a mystery. After all, the Trust is funded from the public purse, so don't we have a right to know?

PLANS FOR a stunning new marina at Queen's Head, near Oswestry shuddered to a halt this week when the funding door slammed shut. Money from the Regional Growth Fund was needed to get this ambitious plan off the ground but the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership's application was turned away. Let's hope civic leaders and our voices in Westminster can help rescue this scheme.

IT WAS NO surprise to hear this week that online bookings for accommodation in Mid Wales have doubled for the first four months of this year. Online business is growing at an amazing pace with fewer people now worried about their money transactions. But I also think fewer people will be taking foreign holidays this year as the economic situation bites deeper still.

Forget Wolves, as Derek stays loyal

PROFILE

with Andy Richardson



THE BIG clubs came looking for him, of course. Wolves, Doncaster, Wrexham and endless Shropshire teams wanted Derek Stokes to shore up their defence.

But the one-club man was happier clearing the muck from the cow field pitch at St Martins than he would have been under the floodlights of Molineux. So he said no.

Today, the player-cum-secretary-cum-treasurer-cum-kit washer-cum-groundsmen has few regrets from his near 60 years in sport.

He started as a boy, back in 1952, with St Martins Juniors, when he was 13. "I suppose I've always been a keen sportsman, all through primary school and secondary school we won trophies at sport. I was always more into sports than academia."

Skills

Derek played for Oswestry Boys' High School, pitting his skills against grammar school teams from Wellington, Newport and other nearby towns.

"On Saturdays, I used to bike from home, at St Martins, at 8am to Oswestry. Then we'd take the coach to another school. Afterwards, we'd all be bought back to St Martins and I'd get on my bike and go to play for St Martins in the afternoon. I used to play twice a day every Saturday."

The St Martins youth team stuck together and won many trophies in the Oswestry Minor League. At the age of 17, Derek and his team mates joined an adult league, the Whitchurch League, and were crowned champions at their first attempt.

"We won it. We played as a reserve team, but we finished first. After that, I went into the first team." And he stayed and stayed and stayed.

He became secretary in 1968 and, though there weren't managers back in those days, it fell to him to organise transport, make sure people turned up, talk tactics and devise game plans.

"There were lots of times when I could have gone somewhere else," he says. "But I loved St Martins."

"As a boy, I remember playing on a cow field. Before the match, on a Saturday, I'd have to clear the cows off the pitch then go round with the spade and wheelbarrow, clearing all the muck. I still mark out the pitch now. Each season, I drive in my van to Cheshire to collect a tonne of pitch marker; it lasts for the year."

"She's been doing that for 30 years. She detests football with a passion, but she doesn't mind if it helps me. She comes to all the functions. She keeps on saying to me 'you can retire now'. When I was 50, she said 'You can retire now', when I was 60 she said the same thing, and she said the same when I was 70."

"I don't know, I look forward to the season to end but then I look forward to it starting all over again."

"I wonder whether I can carry on doing it all, looking after the referees



Derek Stokes with a selection of his trophies



Derek, at 21, shaking hands with the Ellesmere FC captain



Derek Stokes reliving some football memories

and their hospitality, marking out the pitch and making sure everything's in order."

It could have been so much different, had Derek's eyes been turned by the offer of riches and glory elsewhere. He played for Shropshire youth, at right back, left back and centre back, as well as for the Shropshire seniors.

Spotted

"The one disappointment I had was in the late 50s. We were playing Birmingham FA at Aston Villa under floodlights; that would have been something because in the 50s there were no lights anywhere else. To have been at AVFC would have been amazing, but it was cancelled and we played at Leek Town."

"I was spotted by Wolves in the 50s and was supposed to go for trials. Then, at the last minute, I received a letter from Stan Cullis saying an old teacher of his from Clebury Mortimer had heard that I'd signed from Bolton, so I didn't have to go. Nothing of the sort had happened. I went again afterwards, I was supposed to go and just

look around. When I got to Wolves, Bill Shorthouse asked me if I'd taken my boots because they'd got a game. He was going to put me on the coach and get me into the A team, but I'd been told not to take my boots."

Wrexham and Doncaster came in for him, but Derek resisted their advances. He also turned down other Shropshire teams.

"I was happy at St Martins, why would I have gone elsewhere. The other clubs in Shropshire? It was nice of them to ask, but I was happy where I was. I wanted to stick with St Martins and just enjoy it."

Unsurprisingly, Derek is the longest serving member of St Martins FC, although not the oldest.

"The chairman, Terry Ellis, is a little bit older. We played in the same teams, back in the day, he was a good right winger. I've been on the committee a lot longer, Terry came in later."

"I keep thinking I'll have to take someone round and show them what I do, I can't go on forever. But they keep asking me to carry on and I don't want to let them down."

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So what are the choices?
1 Burn oil or gas – both are becoming more scarce and costly.

2 Burn nuclear fuel – if you don't mind a disaster every now and then.
3 Use wind and wave energy – it's clean, there's plenty of it and it's safe. Folk who don't want wind turbines talk about calm days – there aren't many of them, especially on top of a hill or off-shore. The tides surrounding the UK should also be used.

4 Stop using electricity. If you really don't want electricity, then have it disconnected.

Cables should be buried rather than draped across the landscape as an eyesore. Yes it's expensive to bury them but so are wars and donations to Europe. The infrastructure of the country ought to have some relevance attached to it.

PETER KEEN
Babbinswood

Wording of questions a concern

THE NATIONAL Grid through their "consultations" with the victims of their proposed pylon, turbine and hub operations in Wales and Shropshire, put out a feedback questionnaire which includes questions that, as an analyst, I have always been instructed to avoid.

These are known as the "Have you stopped beating your wife" type questions.

The questionnaire itself appears to be designed to pitch one community against another by asking which part of the country you prefer to be covered in industrial junk. The document is only really asking "would you rather be shot or hung", it's not a consultation, and I am sure nobody is fooled by it.

DAVID SURRY
Middletown

Merger is only option

UNFORTUNATELY, THE lack of attendance by parents to the Open Evening held at Rhyn Park School was not a surprise to me. In my experience, parents will be exploring their options to relocate their children.

The vote held by St Martins Parish Council concerning the issue of merger, did not have a unanimous result and comments made by a representative on this council sum up the thoughts of only a portion of them "Putting a sticking plaster on Rhyn Park does not help." It appears that

the parents of St Martins, Gobowen and Weston Rhyn have a choice, either to support Rhyn Park and re-site Ifton Heath or keep Ifton Heath open. This action would result in the loss of a secondary school. The differences between the schools are:

Ifton Heath was built in around 1914. It is a campus comprising of two building styles, one is the main school and the other is portable classrooms. The main hall has not got the capacity to house all the pupils and their parents at one time. From a parental viewpoint

the road running parallel to the school is dangerous.

Rhyn Park School has all the facilities to create a good educational establishment on one site. Recently it has received good Ofsted reports.

In my opinion the cost of keeping Ifton Heath open would ultimately result in the closure of Rhyn Park. In my view there is no contest, unification of both schools is the future. All schools are the life blood of any community.

ALDERMAN BILL JENKINS
St Martins



There's something missing in this photo of the National School, Weston Rhyn, and that's the sight of children playing. Look carefully, and there's just one young boy in the picture, near the door. Why was he singled out? The picture, from postcard collector Ray Farlow, is undated but may be from around 1900.

Grants to help veterans visit

I AM writing to you on behalf of World War II veterans who may not have been aware that in 2010 financial grants, Heroes Return II, were available from the Big Lottery Fund to enable veterans to pay a visit of remembrance.

The number of veterans claiming these grants were far less than anticipated resulting in these grants being extended to December 31, 2012. It would be helpful if you can help make these details known so that veterans may still take advantage and plan a visit.

The grants range from £150 to cover travel and accommodation for veteran, spouse and carer, within the UK, £1,300 to Northern Europe and £5,500 to the Far East. These grants are also available to widows and widowers.

I would be more than willing to advise people how and where to claim. Please e-mail me at ted@49squadron.co.uk or write to 4 Cottage Close, Heage, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 2BS, or telephone 01773 853 181.

TED CACHART
Chairman of the 49 Squadron Association

LETTERS to the Editor

POST	FAX	E-MAIL
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU	01952 222451	letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Powers do not exist to look at health worker complaints

YET AGAIN we see more cases of failing standards in the private health care sector. There can be no excuse for neglect or failure to deliver basic standards of care, and abusive behaviour is simply unacceptable.

There is a trend within the NHS and private sector to make financial savings by reassessing nursing roles to save money by recruiting "health care" or "support workers". There are estimated to be 300,000 alone in the NHS.

My concern is that these workers are totally unregulated. When nurses fail to deliver basic standards, the NMC is the only body with the power to remove them from practice, and although this body receives 1000s of complaints concerning health workers, they have no powers to investigate.

Andrew Lansley proposes a system of voluntary registration. Will this protect the public? I think not. Come back matron, we need you.

PETER SAYLES Trefonen

Clear-out may help charity's appeal

I AM WRITING to encourage people to take a leaf out of my book by clearing their shelves for the British Heart Foundation's (BHF) BIG Entertainment Appeal this May.

My entertainment collection is full of treasures. From The Beatles and Cliff Richard to Jackie Collins and Pride & Prejudice I enjoyed passing them on to a great cause.

It would warm my heart to see Shropshire locals sharing some of their classics with BHF shops. Is your favourite read of last year now gathering dust on your bookcase? Have you listened to that must-have CD one too many times? Are you finally ready to give up that Office box set?

BHF shops in Shropshire have an ambitious target of generating 1,785 items of good quality books, CDs and DVDs per shop throughout May which will help in the fight against heart disease – the UK's biggest killer. They are delighted with all the support you have shown but are still keen to receive those extra, crucial donations.

Last year BHF shops raised more than £22 million, helped by the sale of second-hand items, so think twice before hoarding those items for yet another year.

For more information on The BIG Entertainment Appeal and to locate your nearest BHF Shop visit: bhf.org.uk/entertainment Or call 0844 412 5000.

CILLA BLACK OBE
On behalf of the British Heart Foundation

Our football is really in doldrums

WHEN THE England football team did so badly at the last World Cup, a lot of people were surprised, but perhaps we should have expected it.

The Barclays Premier League was won quite easily this year by Manchester United, they finished a massive nine points in front of second place Chelsea and the other big club Arsenal was 12 points behind.

When you see the way Barcelona out-played Manchester United in the Champions League final it shows how far behind English football is. If our top team is that poor, what does it say for the rest of them? English football is the worst it's been for a long time.

SID SMYTHES
St Martins

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After victory in front of his home fans in 2008, Lewis Hamilton will be looking to emulate this success again, whilst Jenson Button would love to win at Silverstone and join the list of elite British drivers to win in front of a home crowd, including Jackie Stewart, James Hunt, Nigel Mansell, Damon Hill and David Coulthard.

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NEWS

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Hopes new signs will help tourism

THOUSANDS OF pounds has been ploughed into a project to help point tourists in the right direction in Oswestry.

Town officials concerned that tourists were getting lost while wandering around the area have announced they are to spend £22,500 on new fingerpost signs for the centre.

The signs have been designed specially to help those with sight difficulties and will be installed within the next three months.

Last Thursday the project was awarded £2,000 from the Oswestry Local Joint Committee.

Improve

Town signs are currently blue with silver writing but the new ones will be black and white to clearly mark out tourist spots.

Betty Gull, chairman of Oswestry Borderland Tourism Ltd, said: "For years we have been trying to improve signs in Oswestry."

"People who can't see very well can't read what the current signs say."

"Now there won't be so many mystified people wandering around the town."

"I am looking forward to it with great anticipation as they are much needed. It will help with the town's tourism."

It has previously been agreed by the local joint committee to approve £10,000 towards the cost of replacing the town centre markers.

The final project costs are estimated to be £22,500 and officials are continuing to look to other sources for extra cash.

Shropshire Councillor Martin Bennett said: "There will be about a dozen new signs and they will be pointing out certain areas and giving tourists information for areas including the parish church and major visitor destinations."

"We are now moving into the final hurdles of the project. We are making all the arrangements and ordering the signs ready to put them in place. We are hoping to get them installed in the next three months."

Martin Anderson, chairman of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce, said: "I am delighted there will be new signs. That is great news."

Hannah's back on town beat



Community support officer Hannah Bishop

THERE'S A familiar face on the streets of Oswestry with the return of Police Community Support Officer Hannah Bishop to the town.

The 22-year-old started her career on Oswestry's rural south beat in March 2008 before moving to North Shropshire with stints at

Whitchurch and Wem. Now she's back in Oswestry pounding the town's west beat, replacing Julie Anderton, who has retired.

"I really enjoy the job and welcomed the opportunity to return to Oswestry," said Hannah. "I love being out in the town."



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Town tributes for business stalwart

TRIBUTES HAVE been paid to one of Welshpool's best known businessmen.

Mervyn Evans died last week after 50 years of owning and running businesses in the town.

He owned The Pinewood Bakery since its opening in 1961 and also the next door Pinewood Tavern, in Broad Street.

Mr Evans, who was 86, was regarded as one of the most respected and well-known businessmen in Powys, also running a successful catering firm in the 1970s.

Councillor Estelle Blievas, town mayor, led the tributes to Mr Evans, hailing him as one of the town's best-regarded residents.

Respected

She said: "My thoughts and those of all the town's residents are with the Evans family on what is a very sad occasion for Welshpool."

"He was extremely well-liked and respected and one of the most well-known men in the town and I am sure everybody will be thinking of him and the family."

Glyn Davies, Montgomeryshire MP, said he had known Mr Evans for years and had also traded cattle with him.

He said: "This is very sad news, he was an absolute institution and today it feels like a part of my childhood has gone."

"I spent many a day having a coffee in The Blue Cafe as The Pinewood was known in those days and knew Merv very well."

"We also bought and sold a lot of cattle to each other throughout our farming days and he will be sadly missed by everybody. I will pass on my thoughts to the family."

Mr Evans died at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital on June 2.

A service of thanksgiving will be held at Welshpool Methodist church at 12.30pm on June 15.

Tickets for summer ball

WELSHPOOL ROTARY Club will be holding a summer ball on June 25 at the town's Royal Oak Hotel at 7pm. Tickets are £30 and are available by calling (01938) 552217.

Isaac is chuffed about train trip



PUPPETEERS, STORYTELLERS and a steam train launched National Bookstart Week in Welshpool. The theme this year was transport, and families from the Welshpool area celebrated by going on a learning journey from Welshpool to Llanfair on the Welshpool Steam Train. On board were storytellers, puppeteers and staff from the library service. Pictured on the train are Julie Prince with her three-year-old son Isaac Prince, from Gungrog Hapitots. *Picture: Rose Pearce*

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Farmers dig deep to raise £15,000 for 999 service



Rachael Beech receives the cheque from Gareth Vaughan, left, and Emyr Jones

FARMERS IN Mid Wales have raised more than £15,000 for the Wales Air Ambulance following a series of fundraising events.

The Farmers' Union of Wales members and supporters joined president Rachael Beech, Mr Vaughan said the air ambulance service was a most appropriate cause for a national organisation covering rural areas.

Presenting the cheque to Wales Air Ambulance fundraising co-ordinator Rachael Beech, Mr Vaughan said the air ambulance service was a most appropriate cause for a national organisation covering rural areas.

Mrs Beech said: "Wales Air Ambulance relies solely on community donations as we don't get any government funding. So to have local organisations such as the FUW and their local committees on board means so much."

Show highlight as Red Arrows fly in

THE RED Arrows are flying into Welshpool this weekend for one of the highlights of the town's year.

The world-famous aerial display team will kick off this year's Welshpool Air Show on Sunday.

The event starts at around 10.30am with a flypast by the Arrows, on their way to the Cosford Airshow in Shropshire.

The day at Welshpool will then feature displays from a Spitfire at 12noon and later in the afternoon a demon-

by Graham Breeze

stration by a King Air. On the ground there will be many attractions for all the family to enjoy, including a Red Arrow Hawk, University of Wales Air Squadron Tutor plane, a Squirrel Helicopter and classic cars.

Other activities include fairground rides, bouncy castle, SuperZorbs, RAF flight simulator and a climbing wall provided by the Army.

Welshpool residents can travel to the airport free of charge on a special bus

service from the Co-op Car Park provided by Tanat Valley Coaches.

Transport will start at 9am with a half hourly shuttle service provided.

Free

Entry to the show is free and gates open at 7.30am. If you are travelling by car there is ample parking, with the parking on site at £8 per car and £3 per motorcycle.

The show is organised by Welshpool Town Council in conjunction with Welshpool Airport and the RAF and supported by Sidolus.

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Axe talks waste of money, says school

GOVERNORS AT a school saved from the threat of the axe have hit out at Powys County Council, saying consultation to close it was a waste of time and money.

Barbara Jessop, chairman of governors at Castle Caereinion Primary School, near Welshpool, said the school always knew that pupil numbers were healthy and were not going to be under guidelines which would mark it for possible closure.

She said the council's consultation into closing the school had used up time, money and effort, as well as worrying parents and pupils.

Vibrant

Mrs Jessop said: "Castle Caereinion Primary School is pleased but not surprised at the recommendation made to the Powys County Council cabinet to keep this vibrant and successful Church in Wales school open."

"We knew that our pupil numbers were healthy and a phone call to the school would have saved the county a lot of money and us a lot of effort. As the chair of governors, I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who supported the school."

Last week it was announced that the council's cabinet was recommending plans to save Castle Caereinion, Pontrobert, Nantmel and Dolau schools. But it was recommended that formal consultation begin to close primary schools at Cwmdru, near Crickhowell, Dolfor, near Newtown, and Trefnannay, near Meifod, at a meeting in July.

The closures are part of a consultation into the future of primary education in Powys, where falling pupil numbers have left some schools with fewer children than recommended.

Councillor Stephen Hayes, Powys County Council cabinet member for schools, said: "We are facing a significant problem of surplus places."

Hopes people will have a heart



PAUL GANNON, a volunteer for the British Heart Foundation shop in Welshpool, promotes their new "Big Hearts" campaign. The idea is that people buy the little heart badge and donate money to the charity to help save lives.

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INCLUDES: Two Overnights DBB, Five Nights DBB at Resort, (4 Course Buffet Dinners inc Tea/Coffee) 3 Excursions Inc; Freiburg, Schaffhausen and the Rhine Falls & Colmar.

15th - 18th - Historic Navel Hampshire - Solent Hotel & Spa**** nr Fareham 4 Days £280
INCLUDES: Three Nights DBB, Excursions inc; VIP Entry and Guided Tour inc Tea/Coffee & Cake of the Royal Armouries Museum, Entry to Portsmouth Castle, VIP Pass for Portsmouth Historic Dockyard inc HMS Victory, Royal Navy National Museum, 45 Minute Harbour Cruise

16th - 17th - London Theatre - Wizard of Oz - 4 Star Hotel Heathrow Area 2 Days £165
INCLUDES: One Nights BB, Evening Performance in Dress Circle.

18th - 22nd - Hidden Corners of Yorkshire - Sporting Lodge Hotel**** Middlesbrough 5 Days £340
INCLUDES: Four Nights DBB, Excursions inc; Rides on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, Wensleydale Railway, Entry to Peston Hall Museum, Teeside Princess River Cruise, Thix, Helmsley, Pickering & Whitby.

22nd - 24th - Mystery Tour - 3*** or 4**** Hotel 3 Days £139
INCLUDES: Two Nights DBB & Excursions to Local Places of Interest.

23rd - 24th - Althorp' Experience - Marriott Hotel**** Northampton 2 Days £140
INCLUDES: One Night DBB, Excursions Inc; Entry into Althorp House & Gardens inc Afternoon Tea & Sandwiches. Stratford-Upon-Avon.

25th - 29th - Scottish Highlands - Crairlairch Hotel*** 5 Days £299
INCLUDES: Four Nights DBB, Entertainment, Excursions Inc; Entry into Cruachan Power Station, Fort William, Glen Coe, Killin, Pitlochry, Crieff, Loch Earn, Drive Through the Trossachs to Loch Katrine & Aberfoyle.

25th - 29th - Downton Abbey' Norton Park Hotel**** nr Winchester 5 Days £339
INCLUDES: Four Nights DBB, Excursions Inc; Entry into Highclere Castle, Horse Drawn Barge Cruise, Newbury, Winchester, Salisbury & Stonehenge.

30th - 5th - Shanklin, Isle of Wight - Shanklin Hotel*** Shanklin 7 Days £455
INCLUDES: Six Nights DBB, Entertainment, Excursions Inc; Entry to Osborne House, Newport, Godshill, Yarmouth, Ryde & Sandown.

AUGUST

1st - 5th - Classic Kent - Abbots Barton hotel*** Canterbury 5 Days £375
INCLUDES: Four Nights DBB, Excursions Inc; Entry & Guided Tours of Leeds Castle and Canterbury Cathedral. Royal Tunbridge Wells

5th - 8th - Luxurious Oxford, Stratford & Bath - Oxford Belfry**** Milton Common 4 Days £239
INCLUDES: Three Nights Carvery Dinner Bed & Breakfast, Excursions inc; Cotswolds, Oxford, Bath, Stratford-Upon-Avon & Warwick

5th - 8th - Historic Houses in Hertfordshire - Letchworth Hall Hotel**** Letchworth 4 Days £270
INCLUDES: Three Nights DBB, Excursions Inc; Entry and Out of Hours Guided Tour of Knebworth House with Tea/Coffee on the Garden Terrace. Tea/Coffee on Arrival at Hatfield House Followed by Entry and Out of Hours Guided tour.

6th - 13th - Jersey by Air - Hotels - Ambassadeur, St Clement, or Norfolk Lodge or Horfolk St Helier 8 Days From £556
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Facelift idea at pond for newts

AN OSWESTRY "NEWT" pond, which was opened by the former mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, could be getting a facelift.

The pond in Windsor Road was built 16 years ago to house a colony of newts that was under threat from bulldozers. But it has now become overgrown and is difficult to see because of the tall grasses.

Local councillor Martin Bennett says he wants to see a project begin to make the pond more attractive to passers-by and residents.

He wants people to volunteer to help care for the pond and is looking for help from firms in the area to sponsor it.

In the early 1990s work on a housing development ground to a halt when it was discovered that the land was home to the protected, great crested newt.

Ecologists worked with Oswestry Borough Council and developers to create a new habitat for the creatures, including the Windsor Road newt pond at a cost of £10,000.

Special escape ladders were built in nearby drainage gullies for unfortunate newts which fell down them.

Mr Livingstone's interest in the amphibians brought him to Oswestry to officially open the pond in 1995 and declare it a model for others to follow.

Councillor Bennett said unfortunately the pond had since become overgrown and untidy. I am working with the countryside council to see if we can find a way of making the pond attractive to look at for the residents.

"I really think we can do something to make it look much better. Maybe we could put out a call to volunteers to help and to firms in the area to sponsor the pond."

Young farmers win Glastonbury gig in national contest



Richard Lewis, Llion Vaughan and Gus Harris ready to head for Glastonbury

TWO YOUNG farmers are to take to the stage at Glastonbury after winning a national competition.

They will perform at the UK's biggest music festival, with their parody of R&B star Rihanna's *S&M* after winning the Farmers Guardian's Tractor Factor competition.

Richard Lewis, 18, and Llion Vaughan, 17, who use the aliases DJ Wooly and Will L Lamb, have named their version *Plough On*. Their video, shot on a farm by their friend Gus Harris, 17, was selected from a shortlist of six finalists. Richard, of Llanfyllin, and Llion, of Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, faced stiff competition from the other acts.

More than 14,000 people took part in the X Factor-style public vote to choose *Plough On*, which has also received tens of thousands of hits on YouTube.

The farmers have won four tickets to the Glastonbury Festival, staged between June 24 and 26, and have the chance to perform *Plough On* the Yeo Valley stand at the festival.

Llion said: "The past weeks have been amazing, the response and support from people has been great. This competition was a brilliant and original idea which took a fresh twist on farming."

"I think this competition has hopefully brought many a smile and chuckle to many people across the country, and possibly even made a few farmers hum *Plough On* while out in the fields."

Richard added: "The competition has also shown that farmers these days are not just people who work with the land but are very diverse and like to have a laugh."

"It has been a great experience and I have enjoyed it very much."

'War zone' claim refuted

by Graham Breeze

COUNCILLORS WANT to visit Oswestry's streets on a Saturday night to investigate claims that the centre becomes a "war zone" at weekends.

Oswestry's taxi drivers are calling for CCTV systems to be fitted in their cabs believing they are vulnerable to abuse or attack from customers at the weekend.

Attack

"Oswestry town centre is like a war zone at weekends and taxi drivers feel vulnerable to abuse or attack," said a letter from the Taxi Drivers' Association.

"The CCTV would not only protect drivers and passengers, but would give an extra pair of eyes to the police as they record not only the interior of the

taxi but also face forward and record events in the street."

But the claims were refuted by Oswestry's police inspector who said the town centre is far more peaceful now than it was a decade ago.

Inspector Jim Stafford said the town was nothing like it was a decade ago when it was highlighted in a national newspaper for its alcohol problems.

He said: "My young police officers wouldn't recognise the town of a decade ago to the town centre of today."

"The volunteer-run town centre CCTV has led to a marked reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour."

On Monday Oswestry town councillors decided they wanted to see the situation for themselves.

Councillor Heather Bickerton said:

"Going back to the borough council days I used to go out with the police on a Saturday night quite frequently to see about the state of the crime in the town."

"Would it be a good idea if one or two councillors went out to sit in a car and bring a report back to the council?"

She said the report would show councillors whether crime in the town was getting better or worse.

Changed

Councillor Martin Bennett said the offer had been made to councillors in the past.

"I do think it would be a good idea."

Councillor Betty Gull said she had been out in the past as part of the old borough council licensing committee.

"I personally would be interested to see if Oswestry really has changed."

Mark Higgins, chairman of the taxi association, sent a letter to Oswestry Town Council requesting help in getting

the cameras for their cabs as the costs were high.

It read: "Shropshire Council licensing department has strict conditions on CCTV so the cost is out of reach for most drivers."

But Councillor Gull said the issue of getting CCTV installed was a decision that would have to be taken by Shropshire Council.

She said: "We are nothing whatsoever to do with the decisions made by Shropshire Council and the taxi association need to keep that in mind."

"Whatever the taxi drivers want it is nothing to do with us."

"We can have a view but we cannot be party to a decision."

Councillors agreed to ask Inspector Stafford to give them the chance to "see the evening economy in Oswestry."

NEWS

in brief

Wait continues on Vyrnwy bid

IT WILL BE this summer at the earliest before villagers find out who will be put forward as the preferred bidder for the £11 million 25-year lease for the Lake Vyrnwy estate.

The 23,000 acres of land was put on the market last year by Severn Trent. A number of parties have put in a bid for the lease including Bala-born businessman Rhys Jones, the RSPB and Mid Wales Housing Association.

Sarah-Jayne O'Kane, spokeswoman for Severn Trent, said: "Due to the continuation of our due diligence process, a decision has yet to be put to the board on a preferred bidder for the Lake Vyrnwy."

"We expect this to take place over the summer following which there will be a 12-week consultation period with the Countryside Council for Wales."

Plan to improve weekly market

PLANS ARE being put together to ensure Llanfyllin's weekly market becomes even more popular among stallholders and shoppers, town councillors have revealed.

Llanfyllin Town Council has agreed to take on running the Thursday market from Powys County Council. Llanfyllin's county councillor Peter Lewis said the change could be an opportunity to improve the market.

He said: "The market is already popular and I think locally in Llanfyllin we can run the market more efficiently and effectively. We have somebody now who can collect the rents and we are looking at ways of improving the market and bringing in more shoppers."

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Chamber wants to help set the business agenda for a decade

by Graham Breeze

OSWESTRY CHAMBER Of Commerce wants to help set the town's business agenda for the coming decade.

Wendy Unwin, the organisation's newly elected vice chairman, told last Wednesday's meeting that the chamber should promote Oswestry as 'an excellent place to do business'.

"We must represent the town and influence decisions."

"We will provide the forum to support Oswestry businesses and promote the town as an excellent place to do business," she said.

"We want to work with, and alongside, all the town's organisations and policy makers to formulate a town strategy for the coming decade."

"Giving business a voice in Oswestry and increasing business visibility should be what we are all about."

Increase

She was speaking at the first meeting of the chamber since its April 6 re-launch when a completely new team of officials was elected to run the organisation.

Chamber chairman, Martin Anderson, said the group would work alongside other stakeholders such as Oswestry Town Council and Shropshire Council.

"We will look to increase chamber representation on other groups and give the business people of Oswestry a voice," he said.

The chamber will look to increase numbers through a street-by-street membership drive and will look at involving bigger and multi-national companies.

"Our priorities will be looking at how we influence the spending of retail development money, business rates, tourism and marketing the town," he added.

"We need to build new relationships with the shire halls and have our say on road construction and signage as well as the town's parking systems."

"We must promote Oswestry as an aspirational town and form working partnerships with councils, tourism bodies, the town development planners, the media, schools and colleges and the North Shropshire Economic Forum," he added.

The chamber will hold its next meeting on July 6.

There's really no place like dome...



The young carers at arts camp, where they created a special dome

Arts camp success for carers

YOUNG CARERS from across Powys came together for a four-day arts camp at Sychpwyll, Llandrinio.

The aim of the arts camp was to create a special dome which would act as a portable exhibition space to go on tour next year as part of the Cultural Olympiad.

Around 40 young carers spent their time working with a range of artists on portraits, graphic work, poetry, printing and much more to create panels that would be attached to the dome.

The theme of the work was *Me & Mine* and the young carers created art works that reflected this as well as poetry about what being a young carer meant to them.

The workshops are part of a three-year project that is being managed by Arts Connection - Cyswllt Celf for Powys Young Carers and is funded by the Lankelly Chase Foundation.

NEWS

in brief

Pupils win prizes for book reviews

OSWESTRY LIBRARY staff and members of the Rotary Club hosted a presentation evening at the library on Monday for winners of the annual Read It! Write It! book review competition for local primary school pupils.

Nine-year-old Dominic Gallagher, a pupil at St John the Baptist Primary School, in Ruyton XI Towns, won first place and the prize of a £30 book token for his entertaining review of *The Teacher's Tales of Terror* by Chris Priestley.

Runners-up were Emily Jiggens, aged 10, from Whittington Primary School, and May Davis, also aged 10, from Ruyton XI Towns.

The winning reviews can be read by following the link to Oswestry Library from www.shropshire.gov.uk/library.nsf

New service to help families

THE POWYS Youth Service is backing National Family Week by launching a new Family Information Service.

The service will provide free, confidential and impartial information to families about childcare and related services in Powys.

National Family Week is the UK's biggest celebration of family life.

There are many questions that families need to ask and may spend hours trying to find the answer.

Questions will be answered by the Family Information Service (FIS).

Parents and carers can find out about childcare and a host of other topics.

To access the service go to www.powys.gov.uk/fis

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Lines are a real talking point

DOWN YOUR STREET

with Ben Bentley

HANG ON, what's this? A series of elaborate painted markings that look like the work of a knitting pattern designer who's turned to road surface graffiti in a moment of madness have appeared on Whitefriars in Oswestry.

Or perhaps it's a dot-to-dot competition. "Either that or we are going to have a giant game of hopscotch?" says resident Dave Matthews.

"Seriously though, it looks like we are going to be dug up."

He's right – highways workers are about to patch up huge swathes of the road surface that have been damaged by extreme weather conditions over recent winters.

The markings, all numbered, have become the talk of Whitefriars, whose residents are braced for inconvenience and perhaps an outbreak of hi-viz people with 'stop-go' lollipops.

Dave Matthews isn't worried about driving though. In his garage, his latest project is a mode of transport that's a bit more, well, amphibious.

"I'm building a canoe," he says. It's not his first either. He shows me several others, ranging from Canadian to eskimo-style kayaks, all the work of Dave's own hand.

"My wife said: 'Not another canoe!' he says. "I built my first one, a Canadian style canoe in 1980, and then I've got the kayaks. But this one is a bit special, an original design. It's got a flat bottom but I've designed it to suck air bubbles under the bottom and hopefullly that will create less drag and go faster."

"Once I get the bottom in, I'll know where I stand."



Dave Matthews builds a canoe

Let's explain. It's not random canoe-making for the sake of it. Dave is a member of Shropshire Paddlesport, a canoe club based at nearby Queens Head.

"I'm just a leisure paddler but some of them are really good," he continues. "At 73 I am the oldest at the club – they have to help me into the boat sometimes!"

I later learn that Dave recently starred on TV's *Countryfile*. He doesn't tell me that, a dickie bird down the road does.

Actually there are quite a lot of dickie birds down the road, and most of them are talking about the dotted lines that have appeared.

Ivor Morgan, 73, says: "The last two winters have done a lot of damage to roads but these aren't that bad. They've got no worse, they've been like that for a couple of

years – my concern is that the road may look worse when it's done."

Ivor is looking well considering he's on the mend from illness.

"I've lost three stone," he says. "I had an ulcer in my stomach that they found was cancerous – I had the whole of my stomach taken out. I'm only just getting over it."

Illness

At the bus stop, Mrs Pugh and Mrs Myers – Hilda and Joan – are talking about all sorts, as you do at bus stops. "I've got to know quite a few people at the bus stop," says Mrs Pugh. "You do," adds Mrs Myers, "it's a meeting point."

"Anyway, our bus is here, got to go, nice to meet you. . ." says Mrs Pugh as the 402 pulls up and the ladies disappear inside, waving.

Another resident, Art Cawley,

observes the numbered road markings and jokes: "It looks complicated. I was thinking of drawing a few on myself, with the same numbers. Only joking!"

Art, with his wife, Dee, and their dog, Toby, are all out on a walk.

At just 48, Dee is a proud grandmother of seven, and, like many grandparents, has "retired" to help out with looking after some of them during the day. "I love it, it's wonderful. I feel lucky," she says.

"And I'm a grumpy grandad!" adds Art, drier than a towel that's been on the line all day. "And I like to have my Sundays off. The grandchildren call our kitchen 'grandad's shop' or 'grandad's cafe'. No, I like it really."

The street is characterised by neatly-kept bungalows, and the area has its fair share of older folk.



Hilda Pugh and Joan Myers at the bus stop

Walking to her next appointment in her nursing uniform, carer Pippa Cawley cuts a familiar sight. She loves caring for people, but she doesn't suffer fools gladly.

"It's very enjoyable. You do what they want you to do, which can be making their breakfast, getting them up in the morning or a bit of housework."

"But some people – and it's not many – can be a bit cantankerous and I have been sworn at. I'm really quite patient, but if I'm pushed to the end. . ."

She pauses, looks up at me and, flashing a grin, says: "You would not want to cross me."

I ask for her to pose for a photo.

"Do you want my normal look? People say I look a bit stern with my normal look," says Pippa. Normal is just fine, thanks.



Ivor Morgan

Sprinting challenge boosts charity

AN OSWESTRY man completed a tough sprint triathlon to raise funds for a Rotary Club charity.

Brian Stone lives in the town but is a member of the Rotary Club of Ellesmere, his former home town.

Recently he competed in the Chirk Triathlon, the first time he had undertaken all three disciplines of the event.

Last year Mr Stone completed the bike section of the Olympic distance Ellesmere Triathlon.

Mr Stone said: "I decided to do an individual sprint triathlon this year and trained for the event for six months."

His training took place at the Lion Quays Country Club, and he said that his thanks must go to swimming instructor, Zara Chambers.

The Rotarian used the challenge to raise funds for Sense, the charity which helps people who are both deaf and blind.

His efforts raised £536 plus £120 in gift aid.

"I completed the course in an hour and 51 minutes and was very pleased with the time. I would like to thank everyone who helped me and who sponsored me," he said.

He said that Ellesmere Rotary Club was always looking for new members to join.

The club supports many charities every year, not only national and international organisations but also local good causes. Anyone wanting to join the club should contact Mr Stone on 01691 652956.

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£20,000 to be spent making memorials safe

UNSAFE MEMORIALS at Oswestry cemetery are being repaired by the town council at a cost of thousands of pounds.

Other cemeteries across Shropshire have seen headstones which were declared unsafe laid on the ground until the families could afford to have them repaired. But Oswestry Town Council is to spend £20,000 resolving the problem.

Society gives major honour to town artist

AN OSWESTRY artist has become a full member of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists.

Bernie Moore completed a two-year candidature and held a successful final exhibition to gain the qualification.

His work is exhibited throughout the UK, at art fairs, galleries and in private collections.

Notably his work is seen in the West Midlands, where he has won the national GMC Trust award in 2009 and the coveted RBSA first prize in 2010.

He is now working towards a major exhibition in the autumn with The Bridgegate Gallery in London, and at the RBSA, St Paul's, Birmingham, until June 25.

A qualified art teacher he offers advice and mentorship to other artists, and has produced a wealth of educational material for teaching and learning in schools, colleges and open learning organisations.

Other information and examples of his work can be seen at www.berniemoore.com

Memories flood back to veterans



Ex-members of the Guards Company Infantry Junior Leader Battalion. Pictures: Simon Williams

MORE THAN 100 former soldiers visited Oswestry to mark the time they spent at the town's Park Hall army camp.

The Infantry Boys Battalion and Junior Leaders Battalion Association, which had its headquarters at Park Hall, held its biennial reunion.

Many of the men and their families gathered at one of the last remaining buildings from the military base, now Oswestry's Rugby Club, on Saturday. The Rugby Club pavilion was once the officers' mess at the camp.

President of the Association, Mr Ray Ironmonger, from Shrewsbury, said the weekend was a great success with an evening dinner at the Wynnstay completely fully booked.

Two men who made lifelong links with Oswestry were Bill McKenna and Rory Williams. Mr McKenna, at Park Hall from 1965-67, was originally from Scotland but married a local woman and after his Army career returned to the town. He said: "This is my home now."

Mr Williams, at Park Hall between 1969-71, was in the Royal Green Jackets until 1979 then returned to the area with his Shropshire wife. He now lives in Weston Rhyn.

Both men saw service in Northern Ireland and said they feel for today's young soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

"We also had to deal with incendiary devices," Mr McKenna said. "It is difficult looking over your shoulder all the time."

Mr Paul Langridge, from Manchester, was a junior leader from 1964-65. He said: "It is brilliant to come back to Oswestry."



Left to right, Tony Smallbone ex-South Wales Borders Sixth Platoon B Company, Sandy Henderson ex-Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 10 Platoon C Company and Colin Harwood, ex-Shorncliffe regiment who were based at the Park Hall Camp

NEWS

in brief

Fair queen to be chosen in village

WHITTINGTON'S ANNUAL village fair will take place on July 9.

The fun starts at 1.30pm with music and dancing, games, refreshments and side shows.

The 1st Whittington Brownies will choose a fair queen, who will be transported to the fair, along with her attendants, by Brian Davies's shire horses, out for the day from their home at Drenewydd.

The winners of the village gardens competition will be announced with certificates and trophies for the many classes.

One of the fair organisers, Kath Griffiths, urged people to get involved in the competition and join in the fun.

Forms to enter the competition are available from Libby Morris, of Rosehill Close, Whittington.

Anyone who wants to book a stall at the event can call (01691) 662116.

Scottish singer joins night out

SCOTTISH SINGER and broadcaster Isla St Clair will be in Llanfechain later this month as part of the Night Out scheme.

Eyes Front is the subject of the evening on June 18 in Llanfechain Memorial Hall.

The combination of live performance and film about music in wartime, with Isla and film maker Patrick King, will illustrate how songs and music played an important part in people's lives by boosting morale.

Tickets at £5 for adults and £2.50 for children are available by calling (01691) 828077.

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Support for lobby to boost internet

A BERRIEW entrepreneur has joined a new one-stop-shop lobby group formed to gain better broadband services for Wales.

Wales Internet Service Providers Association (WISPA) has been launched to serve the needs of Wales.

Annette Burgess, managing director of exavia at Glanvern Hall, near Berriew, has joined the group. She said: "The Government has recently opened up a whole debate on broadband access and next generation technology."

"Through WISPA we want to play a lead role in driving this forward."

"We are all totally focused on delivering robust, reliable and sustainable communications systems to Wales."

"So often we are now asked to go online from banking and supermarket shopping to government agencies, education or even a farmer doing their VAT and stock movements."

"More and more services are coming online and delivering high speed access is an absolute priority for Wales." WISPA will be a resource for everyone from local business to individual households.

Gardens open

GLANSEVERN GARDENS, near Welshpool, will be holding an open afternoon on June 12 to raise cash for Berriew tennis club's new pavilion. Admission is £6 for adults, children under 16 go free.

Company is fined £10,000 over exposure to asbestos

A MIDDLETOWN company has been ordered to pay £20,000 after its director and two self-employed workers were exposed to dangerous asbestos fibres during work on a factory in Oswestry.

John Todd Ltd was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay a further £10,000 court costs following the incident at the Mile Oak Industrial Estate.

The refurbishment firm admitted breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 during a hearing at Shrewsbury Magistrates Court.

Busy event as tractors hit the road

A TRACTOR road run organised in aid of Wales Air Ambulance was started off by the chairman of Powys County Council.

Councillor Barry Thomas started the Montgomeryshire Vintage Club's annual tractor and vehicle spring road run on May 29. The road run started from Tyn Llan Farm, Castle Caereinion, thanks to Mr and Mrs Newtown Davies and family.

After a short service and blessing by Mr Geraint Pete, the vehicles made their way to Neuadd Bridge Caravan Park where other visitor attractions were being held that day, then off to Gregynog Hall.

A helicopter from Mid Wales Airport also landed in support of the event.

The court heard the firm had been commissioned to refurbish a building on the industrial estate but when licensed asbestos removal contractors arrived on October 18, they found two self-employed workers and company director John Todd had already started to remove the material.

Disregard

The company had taken no precautions to prevent the spread of fibres, the court heard.

The Health and Safety Executive attended the site and immediately stopped all work.

After the hearing, HSE Inspector Nic Rigby said: "John Todd Ltd showed an absolute disregard for the health and safety of workers on the site by allowing work with asbestos to take place fully aware it was present."

"It is well known throughout industry that exposure to asbestos fibres can cause premature death, yet this company chose to expose its workers to this risk."

"The court recognised the severity of this appalling situation. Exposure to asbestos can kill."

Author books in to help fundraiser



AUTHOR Carolyn McCrae, from Maesbrook, is joining forces with Llanymynech licensees in support of Help The Heroes charity. She has teamed up with Cath and Bob Hedley at The Bradford Arms Hotel in Llanymynech to support the charity. Cath loved Carolyn's books *The Last Dance*, *Walking Alone* and *Runaways (The Iniquities Trilogy)* and has no hesitation in recommending them to other readers. There are now signed copies available at The Bradford Arms Hotel at a discounted price with 80 per cent going to Help for Heroes. Bob Hedley of The Bradford Arms and Carolyn McCrae

NEWS

in brief

Famous trophy on its travels

A FAMOUS trophy housed at an Oswestry museum has been on display on the Isle of Man this week.

Mountain Miles, an exhibition examining what it means to race on the island's historic mountain circuit, opened at the House of Manannan in Peel on Saturday.

The star of the show was the Humber motorcycle which won the first ever race held on the mountain, the 1911 Junior TT, with Percy Evans aboard.

Accompanying it was the original trophy awarded to Evans in 1911, loaned by the Oswestry Road Racing Museum.

The museum is housed at Park Hall Farm, Oswestry. The earliest motor bike in the collection dates from 1922 and is a fine example of British engineering of the period.

A major part of the collection provides a stunning visual account of the British motorcycle industry during its heyday in the 50s and 60s.

Car damaged in vandal attack

A VANDAL CAUSED hundreds of pounds of damage by walking over a car parked in Ellesmere Road, St Martins.

The black Ford Fiesta suffered a dented roof and bonnet in last Saturday's attack.

Anyone who might have witnessed the incident or has any information which could help police identify the offender is asked to call 0300 333 3000 or the Crimestoppers number 0800 555 111.

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Teenage safety tips over car travel

TEENAGE PASSENGERS travelling with irresponsible drivers are being targeted in a new road safety campaign launched by Powys County Council.

Mission: Fatal 4law has been launched by the council's road safety unit and the campaign centres around a page on Facebook.

The page - www.facebook.com/missionfatal4law - will provide information, help and advice on how individuals can influence the behaviour of other car occupants and ultimately help to avoid a collision.

A video has also been filmed and will be hosted on the Facebook page.

Powys has had a rise in the number of young passengers killed or injured in recent years and the total number of car passengers injured in collisions in 2010 was almost three times higher than the number of motorcyclists injured on the county's roads in the same year.

The Road Safety Unit created this brand new campaign as resources for this vulnerable road user group were not available.

Alyson Broome, the council's road safety project officer, said: "The increase in the number of young passengers injured on our roads is a worrying statistic. When you get into a car as a passenger, you are handing over responsibility for your life to someone else."

"We want to show our young people here in Powys that even if they don't drive, they still have a voice when it comes to their own safety."

Delight as volunteers win royal award for their work

AN OSWESTRY GROUP is celebrating this week after scooping a prestigious national honour.

The Project Group, from Oswestry, has won The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - the MBE for groups of volunteers who work in their local community for the benefit of others.

The honour recognises outstanding voluntary contributions and sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering.

The Project Group has received the award for setting up and running a creative arts business, by and for adults and young people with mental health problems.

Project Group co-ordinator, Jo Davis, said she was delighted for the group whose members were told about the honour last week.

Important

"I think it's a huge achievement and public recognition is very important," she said.

"Very often people with mental health problems are stigmatised and this kind of recognition is hugely valuable in terms of self-esteem."

The group has 40 members, all referred by the National Health Service, who work in a studio in the centre of Oswestry three days a week. They range in age between 18 and 75 years.

Those receiving this year's award were selected from 413 groups and were nominated by members of the public who have been helped personally or witnessed the benefits of the

by Graham Breeze

group's work in their community.

The Project Group will receive a certificate signed by the Queen and an exclusive commemorative crystal, presented by Her Majesty's representative in Shropshire, Algernon Heber-Percy at a ceremony on July 14.

The group has also received an invitation for representatives to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in the summer.

Mike Edwards, chair of the organisation's executive group, said: "We are all really excited by the news that we have been given this prestigious award, which recognises the continuing positive investment of the Project Group in community-focused arts and providing a place where people can grow."

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Award Committee chair, former broadcast journalist Martyn Lewis CBE said it was a pleasure to celebrate the achievements of The Project Group and "give official recognition for the benefits they bring to others' lives".



Members of the Project Group, in Oswestry, were over the moon after being awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services. Picture: Peter Flemmich

NEWS

in brief

Cash boost for young farmers

YOUNG FARMERS in Montgomeryshire have received a cheque for £200 from the county branch of the National Farmers Union.

The presentation took place at the county YFC Rally at Bronymaen, Meifod, when county chairman Edward Chapman said: "NFU Cymru is proud to offer its support to the young farmers."

"The YFC movement is vitally important to the future of the agricultural industry and we are delighted to make this contribution, once again, to the federation which in turn will help their members learn new skills and improve their knowledge of the industry."

Accepting the cheque, Roland Davies said: "Like many other county federations we are facing an uncertain future financially and having strong support off NFU Cymru for this event secures the future for our rural ventures."

Charity alert of bogus collectors

OSWESTRY PEOPLE have been warned to be on their guard against bogus charity collectors trying to dupe supporters of the Midlands Air Ambulance.

The collectors are using the name Air Ambulance Service and visiting homes across the region.

But Lucie Sissons, a spokeswoman for Midlands Air Ambulance, said: "The charity wishes to clarify that these collectors are in no way affiliated with the charity. As far as we can ascertain they are not licensed by any local authority."

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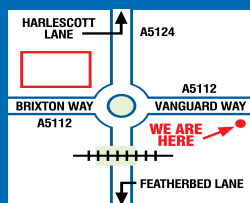
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Farmers will flock to rally in county

HUNDREDS OF young farmers will be heading for the Shropshire/Powys border on Saturday for the Shropshire YFC County Rally at Chirbury Hall.

The rally, the highlight of the YFC calendar, will showcase the talents of members from Shropshire's 19 clubs.

This year's theme is "At the Seaside" and there will be a wide range of competitions such as stock judging, sheep shearing and floral art plus seaside fortune telling and a Punch & Judy Show.

Last Sunday saw the pre-show rally at Chirbury Hall which was described by chairwoman Rachel Mountford as "a fantastic day". Competitions took part in fencing, which was won by Chirbury YFC, welding which was won by John Williams of Clun YFC, silage judging which was won by James Povall of Rushbury and Cardington YFC and crop judging which was won by Rob Frank and Ian Whitticase from Whittington and Oswestry.

MP to speak at breakfast

OWEN PATERSON MP is to be guest speaker at a business breakfast in Oswestry in September.

The Northern Ireland Secretary will address Oswestry Conservative Association at the Oswestrian, in Smithfield Street, on September 2. Tickets at £6.50 are available from The Oswestrian.

Town police officer allays fears over drug problems

by Graham Breeze

A SENIOR Oswestry policeman has moved to allay fears over the town's GHB problem and said it is a "very low crime area".

Inspector Jim Stafford said he in no way wanted to diminish the personal tragedies that the drug had led to, but he said the problem had to be put into perspective.

He was speaking at a meeting of Oswestry's Local Joint Committee, in the Cabin Lane Whole Life Centre, after Councillor Bill Benyon had said that media reports about GHB could hurt the town. He said: "We are not, as we are painted, the drug capital of the world."

I don't want people staying away from Oswestry because they think we have a drug problem."

Mr Stafford said there had been a problem with the GHB drug in Oswestry.

"The issue of GHB had to be dealt with in Oswestry and the steps that are being taken by the police and other agencies are doing just that," he said.

"However, I am concerned that the problem must be put into perspective."

Tragedies

"While not wanting to diminish the personal tragedies that this drug has already caused to individuals, I must stress that GHB does only affect a very small percentage of the population."

"Oswestry is a very low crime area and is a great place in which to live and work."

Mr Stafford, who was first stationed in the town in 1985 and has been its police inspector for 11 years, said that West Mercia police had continued to maintain a large presence in Oswestry.

"Unlike neighbouring Chirk, which has just lost its only dedicated police officer, I have been able to keep ours in the villages of Gobowen, Weston Rhyn and St Martins, with two in Oswestry town and four in the Ellesmere area," he said. "We also have nine Community Support officers that cover Oswestry."

He said that during the past decade he had never seen such good partnership working between the police and the other agencies and organisations.

"We have monthly meetings that are not simply a strategic talking shop but that look at individual problems and solutions," he said.

"I hope we can all get the message across that Oswestry is a very, very, nice town. It is a very different town at night to the town of a decade ago when we had fights and anti-social behaviour every weekend," he added.

"My younger police officers would not recognise the picture I could paint of what Oswestry was like then."

Dutch force swops tactics



From left, Dutch policeman, Arjen Wakker, with DCI Alan Edwards, having talks about the drug GHB.
Picture: Peter Flemmich

A DUTCH drugs expert has joined the fight to tackle Oswestry's GHB problem.

And the detective leading the fight against the drug in Shropshire revealed the clampdown by police on the supply of the drug was having an effect.

Detective Chief Inspector Alan Edwards said it seemed the message was getting out that police in Shropshire were taking a zero tolerance.

And he added that police would continue using various tactics, including raids on homes, to cut the supply.

Mr Edwards said one of the tactics was a link-up with Amsterdam drugs officer Arjen Wakker to discuss ways to combat the problem.

Mr Wakker visited Oswestry to learn the strategy officers have been using to beat the drug. Mr Edwards said: "Having Arjen here is very useful for us because he has a huge knowledge of GHB."

"We can share our tactics with him and he is telling us how Dutch police are dealing with their problem."

Mr Wakker said: "There is a rising problem in Holland with GHB. In 2004, 300 people were admitted to hospital because of the drug. That figure has now risen to 1,200. I heard about the success police in Oswestry were having with their tactics and have come to learn from them."

NEWS

in brief

Musicians will show off talent

THREE OF Ireland's most talented young musicians will be performing at the Cross Keys at Selattyn on June 18.

Fiddlers Liz and Yvonne Kane come from a line of traditional musicians from Connemara on Ireland's rugged west coast.

With three acclaimed CDs to their credit, they first achieved international prominence as part of Sharon Shannon's band The Woodchoppers, with whom they toured the world.

Edel Fox is a concertina player from Co Clare. She won the prestigious TG4 Young Musician of the Year award in 2004, performs regularly on Irish radio and has amazed audiences all the way from the USA to Asia with her concertina playing.

Tickets go on sale in early May at £8.50 (£5 child), from Eirene on (01948) 710218, John (01691) 791403 or the Gates shop, Oswestry.

Books donated for new scheme

SHROPSHIRE VILLAGERS who have been without a permanent library for many years have rallied round to create an alternative for their community centre.

More than 200 books have been donated to the scheme which is just getting off the ground in St Martins, near Oswestry.

The first Saturday session will be launched this week in the St Martins Centre from 11am until 2pm for people to browse the books.

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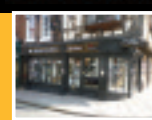
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NEWS

Boundary review sparks call for changes in town

OSWESTRY'S TOWN council boundaries need an overhaul to cope with anomalies which include one ward with one councillor to every 1,000 people and another with one to just 200.

A new housing estate is half in and half out of the town and the town boundary even runs through one property, a meeting has heard.

A review of electoral arrangements is currently under way across Shropshire, with Oswestry Town Council chosen as the first area to be looked at.

At a recent meeting of the Oswestry Local Joint Committee, Mr Richard Thomas, head of democratic services, said Oswestry was certainly the most complicated area to review.

Even out

"We have to look at the size of councils and of their wards and also the numbers of councillors for each ward."

"Oswestry is a growing town and there will be developments in certain areas which is also something we have to take into consideration."

He pointed out that the Gatacre ward had three councillors but just 600 electors while neighbouring Masefield also had three councillors but they served an electorate of 3,000.

One of the ideas he said, was to change the boundaries to even out the difference.

"We also need to look at the west of the town in the Trefonen Road and Broomhall Lane area where perhaps the town council boundary needs to change. The boundary here even goes through someone's garden."

The east of the town, where there had been the biggest development so far, will also need to be looked at, Mr Thomas said.

He suggested that the route of the A5 Oswestry bypass in the east may become the line of a new town boundary. At the moment part of Oswestry town is in the countryside on the Whittington side of the bypass yet not far away the rural boundary goes inside the road-line.

"There is a housing development, Heritage Park, where some houses are in the town council area and some within the rural parish."

Shropshire Council is consulting with the public before drawing up a draft plan for boundary changes.

Pictures at an exhibition



DAN CHODECKI from the Tourist Information Centre in Welshpool takes a look at some watercolour paintings by Dennis Williams, which are currently being exhibited at the centre. Dennis was born in Mid Wales. He is also a former headteacher of Llandinam Primary School. Dennis is an accomplished watercolour painter who has had his work exhibited throughout the UK.

Council rejects shelter takeover

OSWESTRY councillors have refused to look after a bus shelter in the town after Shropshire Council said they were unable to replace it.

Members of the town council wrote to the unitary authority to say they would consider adopting the shelter, near the town's post office, if it was replaced.

But now this will not happen because the unitary's capital budget has been cut 'considerably'.

A letter to the town council read: "Due to these restrictions it is regrettable that we are now unable to fund any new replacement for the shelter at the Post Office, Oswestry, in the near future."

The letter added that Shropshire Council would carry out a deep clean and repairs to the current shelter.

Councillor Betty Gull said: "We said we would take it on if it was replaced. They have refused to replace it so we won't take it on board."

Councillor Bill Benyon said: "I am not surprised. First the toilets, now the bus shelter. What next?"

David Preston, town council clerk confirmed: "That was the condition. If they replaced the shelter we would adopt it." He will write to Shropshire Council to inform them they will not fund it.

Raffle result

GRIFFITHS HIRE shop in Oswestry raised almost £500 for Children in Need with a charity raffle. The first prize in the raffle, a Makita battery powered bicycle, was won by Mrs Jackie Jones of Chirk.

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A substantial grade II Listed country house with three holiday cottages, 26 acres of land and an outdoor swimming pool in a private, rural location is on the market with Halls for £1.25 million.

Hampton House at Welshampton, near Ellesmere, is believed to have been originally built in the 1830s by the Topham family, famous for their ownership of Aintree racecourse.

The property should be of particular interest to horse owners, as it comprises stables and around 26 acres of pasture land. Hampton House is located about 12 miles from Oswestry, 18 miles from Shrewsbury and 25 miles from Chester.

The house has been carefully restored and now provides well-proportioned accommodation over three

floors with super views over the gardens, land and open countryside beyond.

The internal accommodation boasts a number of original features. The ground floor comprises a lounge, sitting room, dining room, pantry, combined kitchen and breakfast room, storage room, rear entrance porch, combined utility and boiler room, cloakroom and games room or office. The first and second floors each have three bedrooms and a bathroom.

The property is approached through impressive high level wrought iron gates – formerly the entrance gates at Wolverhampton Racecourse – along an impressive tree lined drive, which leads to a spacious gravelled parking area directly in front of the house.

Stone steps lead down to an extensive formal front

lawn, which has a central ornamental fish pond and various areas of box hedging. The lawned gardens continue to the side of the house where there are various maturing borders with a variety of plants, shrubs and trees. There is also a large pool stocked with coarse fish, including tench and carp.

To the rear is a cobbled courtyard, fronted by the original farm buildings, which have been converted into three self-contained holiday cottages. To one side of the cottages is an outdoor swimming pool.

There are a number of period outbuildings, including an attractive stable block. The 22 acres of pasture land is a major feature of Hampton House.

For more information call Halls on (01691) 622602 or visit www.hallsgb.com



Modern home with landscaped gardens for sale with no chain

Constructed only nine years ago, 60 High Fawr Avenue, Oswestry, is on the market for £369,000 with no chain.

The property has a porch, cloakroom, entrance hall, sitting room with conservatory off, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, four double bedrooms, ensuite shower room and luxury bathroom.

The extensive gardens are landscaped with a large patio, ornamental lawns, surrounding shrubs and specimen trees. There is double glazing, gas-fired central heating, cavity insulation, security system, double garage and ample parking.

For more information please contact selling agents Bowen Son and Watson on (01691) 652367 or visit www.bowensondawatson.co.uk



Substantial period residence full of character features

Llwynderw Hall, Llwynderw, is a charming grade II listed residence built near Welshpool in early 1700 with Georgian additions.

Period features at the £850,000 property include original fireplaces, oak flooring, sash windows and high ceilings, while accommodation features four reception rooms, bespoke breakfast kitchen, sun lounge, seven double bedrooms, attic rooms, and cellarage, within one acre of garden and grounds.

To view, call Morris Marshall & Poole on (01686) 625900 or visit morrismarshall.co.uk



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PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK



Immaculate rural retreat offers far-reaching views

This superb country cottage set in rural surroundings has outstanding views and a large garden in a rarely available location only six miles from Oswestry.

Chapel Cottage, Haughton, West Felton, is on the market for £275,000 and is in excellent order, with double glazing and with oil-fired central heating. The accommodation includes a sitting room, living room, dining area, a quality kitchen range, cloaks, four bedrooms and family bathroom. Outside there are garden potting sheds and a greenhouse together with a double garage.

For more information please contact Bowen Son and Watson on (01691) 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk



Lovely detached bungalow in peaceful cul-de-sac

Situated within a quiet cul-de-sac in the highly popular residential village of Guilsfield, 4 Glanaber Drive is a lovely detached three-bedroomed bungalow.

For sale for £169,950 with no upward chain, the home has been greatly improved with newly appointed kitchen and bathroom, and new gas-fired combination boiler. The property has been rewired throughout and has a fully insulated loft space. There is a reception hall leading off to the lounge, fully fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and family bathroom.

For more information please contact Halls in Welshpool on (01938) 555 552 or visit www.hallsgb.com



Picture postcard cottage dates from 16th century

Holly Cottage, Forden, near Welshpool, was built in 1560 and has been tastefully modernised while retaining a wealth of traditional features. It is on the market with an asking price of £265,000.

There is a hallway, lounge with spectacular inglenook fireplace, spacious breakfast kitchen with oil-fired Rayburn, conservatory and downstairs bathroom. Upstairs are two bedrooms off and an office/dressing room. All three rooms have exposed ceiling and wall timbers.

Outside is a driveway leading to a single detached garage and a cottage style garden.

For more information please contact Morris Marshall and Poole on 01938 554818 or visit morrismarshall.co.uk



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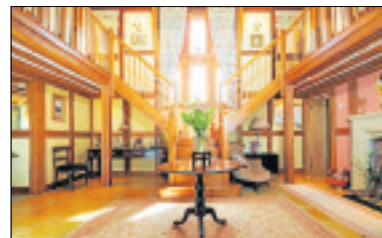


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PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK



Stunning four-bedroom house in an acre of grounds

Brynmaur, Kerry, Powys, is a truly desirable four-bedroom home set in an acre of garden imaginatively landscaped to take full advantage of the hillside on which it sits. There is a dream country kitchen, vaulted dining hall with galleried landing and a wealth of oak beams, as well as hot water underfloor heating to the whole of the ground floor. At £550,000, this is a perfect house either for a peaceful retirement or for a family looking for life in the country.

For more information please contact McCartneys LLP on (01686) 623123 or visit www.mccartneys.co.uk



County cottage in popular hamlet

Set in large landscaped gardens, this detached country cottage is situated in a popular hamlet just a short distance from Oswestry. Bron y Cul, Moelfre, Llansillin, is on the market for £295,000 with no chain. Accommodation includes the sitting room, dining room, kitchen, lobby, cloakroom, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

For more details please contact Morris Marshall & Poole on (01691) 679595 or visit www.morrismarshall.co.uk



Family home in a sought-after area

This beautifully presented detached family home in a sought-after area with a large conservatory and off road parking is available to buy in Oswestry. 12 Grosvenor Road is on the market with agents Town & Country P S (Oswestry) for offers in the region of £219,950 and includes four bedrooms, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, en-suite and family bathroom.

For more details please contact Town & Country P S (Oswestry) on (01691) 679631 or visit www.townandcountryoswestry.com



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**INSPECTION
RECOMMENDED**

Liansantffraid

A substantial detached bungalow, offering spacious accommodation; reception hall, good size sitting room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, two further bedrooms, and family bathroom. Wood effect PVC DG to most windows, large double detached garage, easily maintained gardens and enjoying elevated outlooks with pleasant aspect to the rear. The property occupies a pleasant central position in the village and is within easy walking distance of good local amenities.

Guide Price: £189,950 2813



NO CHAIN

Pine Crescent, Minsterley

A spacious, detached family house, having gas fired CH, partial uPVC DG, garage, and large rear garden enjoying delightful country views. Porch, reception hall, through living room/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, cloakroom, landing, three very large bedrooms and family bathroom. It occupies a very pleasant cul de sac position in this popular area, close to a wide range of local amenities located about 10 miles south west of Shrewsbury.

Guide Price: £185,000 2728



Moss Lane, Muckleton

A charming semi-detached cottage, which has been recently modernised and has the benefits of oil fired CH, good size lawned gardens to three sides, and has open rural views over surrounding fields and countryside. Entrance hall, sitting room, good sized kitchen/breakfast room, landing, three bedrooms, and family bathroom. The property is situated in the popular hamlet of Muckleton, being about four miles from the village of Shawbury with a range of local amenities, and is easily accessible to the M54 motorway.

Guide Price: £185,000 2751



**INSPECTION
RECOMMENDED**

Llwyn Perthi, Ardlelen

An attractive, modern, detached family house, having oil CH, uPVC DG, garage, parking and gardens. The property occupies a superb cul de sac position, backing onto open fields with a southerly aspect and delightful country views, situated approx six miles from Welshpool, 10 miles from Oswestry and 16 miles from Shrewsbury. Entrance hall, living room, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, ground floor cloak/WC, landing, three bedrooms, en-suite shower room, and family bathroom.

Guide Price: £185,000 2860



Portland Crescent, Belvidere

A beautifully maintained and improved semi detached bungalow with gas CH, rear utility extension, parking for several vehicles, garage and lovely easily maintained garden, occupying a pleasant and very convenient position in this sought after locality close to the Shirehall and local amenities. Entrance porch, reception hall, living room/dining room, re-fitted kitchen, utility room, covered decking area, two bedrooms and re-fitted bathroom.

Guide Price: £177,500 2716



**INSPECTION
RECOMMENDED**

Shrewsbury Road, Bomere Heath

An attractive spacious, semi-detached family house, having gas CH, uPVC sealed unit DG, garage, and good size rear garden. Recessed porch, very large reception hall, living room, dining room, conservatory, well equipped kitchen, utility room, and on the first floor are landing, three bedrooms, bathroom, and separate WC. It occupies a very convenient central village location, within short walking distance of a variety of local amenities and being only about five miles north of the county town of Shrewsbury.

Guide Price: £168,950 2741



NO CHAIN

Edgebolton, Shawbury

A semi-detached property situated on the outskirts of the hamlet of Edgebolton, near Shawbury, approximately seven miles north east of Shrewsbury, set in a rural location enjoying lovely open outlooks over surrounding fields and countryside to the rear. Hall, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, downstairs WC and coal store, landing, three bedrooms, family bathroom. PVC DG, and good size gardens. The property requires some upgrading, it offers a good opportunity to acquire an affordable family home in a pleasant rural location.

Guide Price: £155,000 2836



NO CHAIN

Breidden View, Llandrinio

A deceptively spacious mid terrace cottage, having oil CH, mainly uPVC DG, garage and very large rear garden. Entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, landing, three good sized bedrooms, and family bathroom. The property occupies a very convenient road side position in the centre of this popular village having a range of amenities, and being about 11 miles from Shrewsbury, Welshpool and Oswestry.

Guide Price: £155,000 2747



Crosemere Crescent, Cockshutt

A spacious semi-detached family house with uPVC DG, LP gas CH, parking spaces, and very good size gardens. Large reception hall, living room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, landing, three bedrooms, and bathroom. It occupies a very pleasant and convenient central position in the village, being about 4 miles from Ellesmere and about 11 north-west of Shrewsbury.

Guide Price: £149,995 2748



Rowton Court, Rowton

A spacious ground floor apartment with LP has CH, uPVC sealed unit double glazing, garage and superb communal gardens with extend to approximately 2 acres and have the benefit of a private tennis court and adjoin the Castle Country Club with two swimming pools, gym and badminton court. Large communal entrance hall, inner hall, living room, dining room/bedroom 3, two further bedrooms, kitchen and family bathroom.

Guide Price: £145,000



Martins Field, Trefonen

An attractive modern, end terrace house having Economy 7 electric night storage heaters, mainly uPVC DG, parking for three vehicles, and gardens to front and rear. Covered entrance, entrance hall, large living room/dining room, recently fitted kitchen, conservatory, landing, three bedrooms, bathroom. Occupying a pleasant and very convenient position in Trefonen with a range of local amenities and only about 2 1/2 miles south west of Oswestry.

Guide Price: £139,500 2639



**INSPECTION
RECOMMENDED**

Sale Lane, Trewern

An attractive detached bungalow, having uPVC DG, conservatory, electric central heating (well system/radiators), parking for five vehicles, and gardens. Entrance hall, living room, conservatory, well fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property occupies a pleasant position in the popular area with a variety of local amenities and only five minutes drive from the market town of Welshpool, having a comprehensive range of amenities.

Guide Price: £139,950 2835



NO CHAIN

Little Harlescott Lane

An attractive semi-detached family house having gas CH, mainly uPVC DG, garage, and lovely gardens to front and rear. Entrance hall, large sitting room/dining room, kitchen, conservatory, large side passageway off which is ground floor WC, landing, three bedrooms, and shower room. It occupies a pleasant and very convenient position in this popular residential locality having a wide range of local amenities and is easily accessible for Shrewsbury town centre.

Guide Price: £139,000 2839



Mount Pleasant, Middleton

A spacious semi-detached family house with oil CH, partial DG, two parking spaces, and gardens to the front and rear. Hall, living room, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, rear hall, ground floor WC, utility room, three bedrooms, and family bathroom. The property occupies a pleasant elevated position close to the centre of the village, being about 12 miles from Shrewsbury and about seven miles from Welshpool.

Guide Price: £139,000 2411



Hazel Close, Trewern

An attractive modern, semi detached house, Oil CH, sealed unit DG, two parking spaces and garden. Hall, living room, large kitchen/dining room, three bedrooms, bathroom, it occupies a convenient position in the village, and being only about three miles from Welshpool and 15 miles from Shrewsbury. **INSPECTION RECOMMENDED**

Guide Price: £134,500 2699



Eyton Lane, Baschurch

A select development of two bedroom mews cottages and luxury apartments, occupying a central location in the village. The apartments and some of the cottages have been converted from what was originally Nightingale House, a Grade II Listed Georgian residence. The properties have been built to a very high standard and the majority benefit from courtyard gardens and two parking spaces.

Prices from: £125,000



Off Bell Lane, Abbey Foregate

An attractive Victorian terraced town cottage, having gas CH, DG, garden and rear yard. Sitting room, kitchen breakfast room, inner hall with separate shower cubicle door leading through to three piece bathroom, and on the first floor are two good size bedrooms. Occupying a quiet, popular, and very convenient position in this sought-after locality close to a wide range of local amenities and easily accessible to the town centre.

Guide Price: £119,950 2842



NO CHAIN

Worthen

An attractive detached cottage, having oil CH, mainly uPVC DG with some secondary double glazing, and very small garden area. Entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, ground floor bathroom, first floor landing and two bedrooms. It occupies a very convenient position on the fringe of the village of Worthen, which has a range of local amenities and is about 13 miles west of the county town of Shrewsbury.

Guide Price: £115,000 2830



NO CHAIN

Clos Bryn Y Ddol, Welshpool

A semi detached house built approximately 1980 having gas fired CH, on-site parking for two vehicles and gardens. It occupies a pleasant elevated position enjoying the most magnificent panoramic views over Welshpool to the wooded hills beyond. Covered entrance, entrance hall, living room, kitchen/dining room, three bedrooms and bathroom with WC.

Guide Price: £113,000 2795



Four Crosses, Llanymynech

An attractive semi-detached country cottage, in need of complete modernisation and renovation, and having very good size rear garden. Living room, dining room, kitchen, inner hallway, landing, two bedrooms, and bathroom. Occupying a road-side position in the village of Four Crosses having a range of local amenities, and being easily accessible for Welshpool, Oswestry and Shrewsbury.

Guide Price: £85,000 2623



Four Crosses, Llanymynech

An end of terrace mature cottage, requiring some modernisation and upgrading, with sitting room, kitchen, downstairs shower room and bedroom. The property has parking for up to four cars with small enclosed gardens to the rear. The property occupies a central position in the village, close to a range of local amenities and conveniently located for travel to Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Welshpool.

Guide Price: £79,950 2769



Building Plot, Church Stretton

A rare opportunity to acquire a town centre single building plot with Outline Planning Permission for a detached two storey dwelling with off street parking and courtyard garden. The plot extends to approximately 110m² and is within easy walking distance of Church Stretton town centre.

Guide Price: £59,950



Development Opportunities

We currently have an extensive and varied selection of building plots, barns for conversion, renovation projects, and development opportunities available in Shropshire and the Welsh borders.

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RENTAL LIST

Westbury	1 bed second floor flat	£285 pcm
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Ketley	2 bed first floor apartment	£415 pcm
Minsterley	2 bed mid terraced house	£450 pcm
Minsterley	2 bed detached bungalow	£500 pcm
Radbrook Hall Court	2 bed first floor apartment	£595 pcm
Cockshutt	2 bed mid terraced house	£500 pcm
Baschurch	3 bed semi detached house	£595 pcm
Snailbeach	3 bed detached house	£725 pcm
Llanfair Caereinion	4 bed detached family house	£550 pcm
Maesbrook	4 bed detached mature house	£725 pcm
Yockleton	4 bed brand new detached house	£950 pcm

Further properties available, contact Agents for details

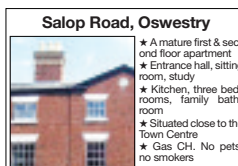


TO LET

Station Road, Pontesbury

★ Refurbished end of terrace house
★ Living area
★ Kitchen with appliances
★ Bedroom
★ Shower room
★ Electric panel heating
★ Available mid May

£400 pcm



TO LET

Salop Road, Oswestry

★ A mature first & second floor apartment
★ Entrance hall, sitting room, study
★ Kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom
★ Situated close to the Town Centre
★ Gas CH. No pets, no smokers
★ Available end of May

£480 pcm PEA819



TO LET

Ellesmere Road, Shrewsbury

★ A mature semi-detached cottage within easy reach of the town centre
★ Sitting room, kitchen, three bedrooms, and bathroom
★ Gas CH, garden and parking
★ Pets considered, no smokers
★ Available late June

£595 pcm R0372



TO LET

Frodesley

★ A modern end of terrace barn conversion
★ Hall, large sitting room, dining room
★ Kitchen/breakfast room, cloak
★ Four bedrooms, en-suite, family bathroom
★ Large parking area, gardens enjoying lovely views
★ No pets
★ Available Now

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**BELLE VUE****Rocke Street**

Most attractive and conveniently located Two Bedroom Terrace Residence having Fitted Carpets, Gas Fired Central Heating and Sealed Unit Glazing. The accommodation comprises: Living Room, Spacious Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Attractive Shower Room, Easily Managed Gardens, Walking distance of Shrewsbury Town Centre, Ideal for First Time Buyer.

£139,000 region**SHREWSBURY****Grange Road**

Situated in this sought after residential area this Three Bedroom Extended Semi Detached property provides the following accommodation, Reception Hall, Dining Room, Extended Living Room, Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Attractive Established Gardens, Gas Fired Central Heating, Extensive Replacement Sealed Unit Double Glazing

Offers Over £199,999**SHAWBURY****Drayton Road**

Interior inspection is recommended of this most characteristic Three Bedroom Detached property. Attractive Lounge, Dining Room, Imposing Family Room, Excellent Fitted Kitchen / Breakfast Room, Utility / Laundry, Downstairs Shower Room, Computer Area, Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room, Fitted Family Bathroom, Garage and Space for Parking / Boat / Caravan etc. Easily Maintained Gardens

£249,995 region**CASTLEFIELDS****Darville**

Providing One Bedroom Ground Floor Accommodation for the over 55's, this Charming Apartment offers the following accommodation: Hall, Combination Living Room with Adjacent Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Replacement uPVC Double Glazing, Allocated Car Parking Space, Popular Residential Area, Vacant Possession - No Chain.

£59,950 region**CROSS HOUSES****NEW PRICE****The Chestnuts**

A delightful and conveniently located Two Bedroom end of Terrace residence having Fitted Carpets, Sealed Unit Double Glazing, Electric Heating, Attractive Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Downstairs Cloaks/WC, Fitted Family Bathroom Suite, Allocated Parking Space, Attractive Gardens to Front and Side. Offers over £124,950

Offers Over £124,950**SHREWSBURY****NEW PRICE****Carline Crescent**

This impressive penthouse apartment has sizeable accommodation arranged over the first and second floor levels. Early interior inspection is highly recommended. Ground Floor Entrance with steps to First Floor Apartment, with Reception Lobby, Entrance Hall, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Impressive Drawing Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Electric Night Storage Heating, Residents Car Parking Area, Warden Controlled Area, Designed for the Over 40's.

Offers Over £219,999**WELSHPOOL****NEW PRICE****Off Sale Lane, Trewern**

Superior, spacious and exceptionally well appointed and presented, Three Bedroom Detached Family Residence providing numerous features and refinements including: Fitted Carpets, Sealed Unit Double Glazing, Gas Fired Central Heating, Cavity Wall Insulation, Double Garage and Off Road Parking, Delightful Extensive Gardens. The accommodation comprises: Reception Hallway, Downstairs Cloakroom, Drawing Room, Conservatory, Dining Room, Spacious Kitchen / Breakfast Room, Utility, Ground Floor Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room, Two First Floor Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Viewing is highly recommended.

£299,950 region**SHAWBURY****NEW PRICE****Bridgeway**

Interior inspection is recommended of this attractive, extended, improved and spacious Four Bedroom Detached Property which also benefits from a good sized attractive Rear Garden. Reception Hall, Living Room, Contemporary Inspired Kitchen, Ground Floor Shower Room, Impressive Dining Room, Storage Garage, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, REFINISHED FOR QUICK SALE

£225,000 region**NR SHREWSBURY****VIEWING ESSENTIAL****Nesscliffe**

A superior, recently built Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow Residence occupying a choice position in the village of Nesscliffe. Reception Hallway, Imposing Lounge with Views, Quality Fitted Kitchen / Breakfast Room, Office / Computer Room, Fitted Family Bathroom, Two Bedrooms with En-Suite Facilities, Garage, Ample Space for Guests Cars / Boat / Caravan, Large Decking Area, approximately 90' x 20' overlooking countryside.

£349,999 region**NR. BASCHURCH****NEW PRICE****Weston Lullingfields**

This Attached Three Bedroom Country Property provides improved accommodation and also benefits from a Stable Block and Paddock, which extends to approximately 2 Acres. Reception Lobby, Contemporary Inspired Refitted Kitchen, Dining Room, Separate Living Room, Ground Floor Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Oil Fired Central Heating, Extensive Sealed Unit Double Glazing, Paddock together with Brick and Slate Outbuilding and Sectional Stable Block.

£279,000 region**SHAWBURY****NEW PRICE****Erdington Close**

With a Conservatory to the rear, this Four Bedroom Detached Property provides attractive and spacious accommodation. Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom / W.C., Living Room, Separate Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen with Breakfast Room, Utility, Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room, Guest Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room, Principle Bathroom, Gas Fired Central Heating, Sealed Unit Double Glazing, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway and Garage.

£249,995 region**SHREWSBURY****St Johns Hill**

Inspirational Town Centre Apartment. Contemporary Inspired, Impressive Town Centre Ground Floor Apartment with personnel car parking space. Interior Viewing is recommended - A Rare Find

£269,000 region**STANTON UPON HINE HEATH****VIEWING ESSENTIAL****Stanton Court**

Occupying a delightful position within this Courtyard of Converted Barns, this Two Bedroom End Terrace Barn Conversion provides attractive accommodation. Interior viewing is recommended. Attractive Living Room with Beamed Ceiling, Kitchen Dining Room, Staircase to Landing with Exposed Timbers, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Oil Fired Central Heating, Delightful Garden, Residents Car Parking Area.

£192,500 region**RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS****NEW****Apt 1, 60 Moreton Crescent, Belle Vue, Shrewsbury**

- Ground Floor Apartment
- 2 Good sized bedrooms
- Car Parking Space
- Walking distance to town

£550 pcm**NEW****125 Watling Street South, Church Stretton**

- Detached 3-bed House
- Integral Garage
- Outside decking with views
- Close to amenities

£600 pcm**Devonshire House, Whitchurch Road, Prees**

- Imposing Town House
- 3 bedrooms
- 2 reception rooms

£660 pcm**2 Cambrian Terrace, Llansantraid**

- 3-bed Terraced House
- Recently refurbished
- Good sized Garden area
- Close to Local Amenities

£500 pcm**APPLICATION IN****45 Hill Crescent, Bell Vue**

- Belle Vue, Shrewsbury
- 3-bed Semi Detached
- Gas Central Heating
- Driveway Parking
- Good sized rear garden

£650 pcm**Bradford Street, Cherry Orchard, Shrewsbury**

- 5-bed Detached House
- 2-Reception, Study, Utility
- Many Original Period Features
- Large Garden

£900 pcm**NEW****The Poplars, Shop Lane, Cold Hutton**

- 4-bed Detached House
- 43 Reception Rooms
- 4Oil Central Heating
- 4Gardens & Parking Area

£900 pcm**High Trees, London Road, Shrewsbury**

- 4-bed Detached House
- 2-Reception, Study, Utility
- Gas Fired Central Heating
- Extensive Garden Areas

£1,350 pcm**Flat 35E Castle Street, Shrewsbury**

- Newly refurbished
- Second Floor 1-bed Flat
- Characterful Accommodation
- Town Centre Location

£450 pcm**Flat 35D Castle Street, Shrewsbury**

- Newly refurbished
- First Floor 1-bed Flat
- Characterful Accommodation
- Town Centre Location

£450 pcm**Flat 35F Castle Street, Shrewsbury**

- Third Floor 1-bed Flat
- Characterful Accommodation
- Town Centre Location

£450 pcm**6 Cardington, Church Stretton**

- 2-bed Detached Cottage
- 2 Reception Rooms
- LPG Central Heating
- Good Sized Gardens

£600 pcm**2 Shoplatch, Shrewsbury (01743) 272710****www.samuelwood.co.uk • Email: sales@samuelwood.co.uk**

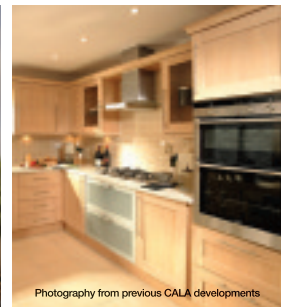
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Smart village property has plenty of space

A substantial five-bedroom detached home in a popular village is for sale with Samuel Wood and Company.

Number 5 Bassa Road, Baschurch, is on the market priced at offers around £339,995. It has been well maintained and includes double glazing, gas-fired central heating, a double garage and generous gardens. Accommodation includes a reception hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, day room and utility.

For further information please call Samuel Wood on (01743) 272710 or visit www.samuelwood.co.uk



Detached house tucked away in cul-de-sac

Sitting at the end of a private cul de sac, 11 Oswalds Close, Oswestry, is a spacious detached house in a popular location just a short walk from the town centre.

The accommodation is spread across three floors and includes an entrance hall, a large sitting/dining room, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, cloaks and utility, five excellent bedrooms – two with en-suites, and a family bathroom.

The property has double glazing and gas central heating, and outside is a garage and delightful gardens and grounds.

Number 11 Oswalds Close is on the market for £249,950 with Bowen Son and Watson.

For more information please contact (01691) 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk



Lydbury North, Bishops Castle



A characterful semi detached traditional stone cottage requiring some refurbishment/modernisation

- 3 bedrooms, bathroom, living room
- Dining room, kitchen, utility and hall
- Mature gardens with private parking space

Contact Bishop's Castle

Price: £179,950

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- Enquiries Bishops Castle 01588 638755

Contact Bishop's Castle

Price: £4000 - £5000 per acre

3 Brookside, Llandyssil



A charming and characterful mid terrace cottage in peaceful village setting

- Comprising 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room
- Kitchen, bathroom and rear patio overlooking a brook
- Pleasant country views
- Central heating and double glazing
- Ideal for first time buyers or as an investment

Contact Bishop's Castle

Price: £125,000

Bank House, Bishops Castle



A substantial period town house of immense charm and character

- Comprising spacious 5 bedroom living accommodation with living room, dining room and farmhouse style kitchen, bathroom.
- Spacious 3rd floor attic rooms, cellar, impressive hall, utility, workshop, pantry and W.C.
- All in private town setting with 2 garden areas and ample parking.
- Held on a recent 999 year lease at a peppercorn rent.
- Viewing essential.

Contact Bishop's Castle

Price: £429,995

Mainstone, Bishops Castle



A superb residential smallholding in an exquisite country setting with stunning views.

- 5 bed 16th Century farmhouse with later extension.
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Hill View, Bishops Castle



A delightful detached house with excellent Southern views over the historic town to open hillsides

- 3 bedrooms, open plan living room/dining/study
- Kitchen, bathroom, storage/workshop
- Gardens and sun terrace, consent and space for further extension
- Providing attractive and comfortable living in a peaceful central location

Contact Bishop's Castle

Price: £250,000

Pwll-y-Glo, Groes Pluen, Welshpool



A delightful detached 3 bedroom period feature cottage which has been modernised and improved by the current vendors and now offers comfortable, spacious and adaptable accommodation

- Side Entrance Hall / Games Room, Cloakroom, Dining Room, Utility Room
- Fully fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Sitting Room, Inner Lobby
- First Floor Landing, 3 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- OUTSIDE - Ample Parking & Turning Area, Car Port, Large Double Garage and Gardens with glorious attractive countryside views

Contact Welshpool

Price: £275,000

Station House, Llanbrynmair



An attractive detached stone building originally built in 1861 and now a Grade II listed. The property ceased to be a functioning station in 1965 and has since been sympathetically and pleasantly converted to provide a most comfortable family home

- Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, Snug, Utility / W.C., Kitchen
- Feature Lounge, Dining Room, Study
- Master Bedroom, Bedroom 2 and Family Bathroom
- FIRST FLOOR - Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room, 3 Further Bedrooms, Bathroom
- OUTSIDE - Paved Driveway with open plan garden to front. Rear enclosed garden.
- NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Contact Welshpool

Price: £300,000

Haulfryn, Llanfihangel



A delightful detached 4/5 bedroom spacious dormer bungalow situated in a rural location.

- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Kitchen Breakfast Room, Utility Room
- Reception Hall, Sitting Room, 3 Ground Floor Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- First Floor Landing, Guest Suite including Bedroom with En Suite W.C. and Private Bathroom, Hobby room / Bedroom 5.
- OUTSIDE - Ample Parking & Turning Space, Integral Double Garage and attractive Low Maintenance Gardens to 3 sides with far reaching views to the rear
- Oil central heating & full double glazing

Contact Welshpool

Price: £285,000

20 Maes Y Dderwen, Llanfyllin



A contemporary four bedroom house finished to a high standard benefiting from double glazing throughout, oil central heating and a 10 year NHER warranty

- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom/W.C.
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen
- FIRST FLOOR - Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room, 3 Further Bedrooms, Bathroom
- OUTSIDE - Paved Driveway with open plan garden to front. Rear enclosed garden.
- NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Contact Welshpool

Price: £162,500



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Hendy, Cwm Nant-Y-Meichiaid, Llanfyllin, is a registered smallholding on the market for around £465,000. There is a hall, superb sitting room, study area, dining room, kitchen, utility, conservatory, three bedrooms, ensuite bathroom, family shower room, outbuildings, stabling, menage and almost six acres of paddocks.

For details please contact Parry Lowarch on (01743) 343343 or visit parrylowarch.co.uk

Parry
Lowarch



Period cottage has fishing rights

On the market for £325,000, Yew Tree Cottage, Nefod Lane, St Martins, has three reception rooms, kitchen, utility area, three bedrooms, two bathrooms and grounds of 0.42 of an acre, with fishing rights in a bordering stream.

For more information please contact
Halls on (01691) 670320 or visit hallsgb.com

Halls

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£1,995 pcm



Peverey Close, Ruyton-XI-Towns

Modern Five Bedroom Detached House
 Rural Location to the North of Shrewsbury
 Entrance Hall, Living Room, Family Room
 Large Breakfast Kitchen with White Goods
 Dining Room, Utility Room, Five Bedrooms
 Three Bathrooms, Double Garage
 Full Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

£995 pcm



Limes Paddock, Dorington

Modern 4 Bedroom Detached House
 Sought after Location
 Unfurnished
 Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room
 Breakfast Kitchen, Utility
 4 Bedrooms (2 En-Suite), Family Bathroom
 Double Garage Gardens.

£895 pcm



Pendle Way, Meole Brace

Well Maintained Four Bedroom Detached House
 Entrance Porch with Downstairs Cloakroom
 Large Living Room, Good Sized Dining Room
 Breakfast Kitchen and Additional Living Room
 French Doors to Established Rear Garden
 Four Double Bedrooms with Built In Wardrobes
 New Large Shower Room, Full Double Glazing

£795 pcm



Manor Farm Barns, Stoney Stretton

Beautiful Barn Conversion in Rural Location
 Entrance Hall, Living Room with French Doors
 Breakfast Kitchen with Range Cooker, Fridge/Freezer
 Dishwasher, Utility Room, Family Bathroom
 Double Bedroom with Wardrobes, Single Bedroom
 Master Bedroom with Wardrobes and En-Suite
 Driveway Parking for at least 4 Cars, Garage

£745 pcm



Monkmoor Road, Shrewsbury

Spacious Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
 Entrance Hall, Modern Kitchen with White Goods
 Dining Room with Electric Fire
 Living Room with Doors to Patio
 Established Rear Garden with Shed
 Two Double Bedrooms with Fitted Wardrobes
 Single Bedroom, Shower Room, Driveway Parking.

£695 pcm



Drawwell Street, Belle Vue

Spacious Three Bedroom House
 Fully Refurbished To A High Standard
 Desirable Residential Area
 New Kitchen with Fitted White Goods
 Three Double Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms
 On-Street Parking
 Large, Well Maintained Garden

£695 pcm



Chester Street, Town Centre

Two Bed Town Centre Apartment
 Fully Furnished to a High Standard
 Views of Shrewsbury Castle and River Severn
 Sitting Room with Dining Area, Store
 Kitchen including White Goods, Airing Cupboard,
 Two Double Bedrooms with Wardrobes
 En-Suite Shower Room, Bathroom

£675 pcm



Sandringham Court, Off Pengwern Road

Second Floor Apartment with Lift Access
 Highly Desirable Residential Area Close
 Walking Distance to Quarry Park and the Town Centre
 Spacious Living Room, Kitchen with White Goods
 Two Double Bedrooms one with En-Suite Shower Room
 Bathroom with Shower, Beautiful Communal Gardens
 Parking Space

£625 pcm



Thomas Court, Carline Fields

Modern Duplex Apartment with River Views
 Secluded Development Close to the Town Centre
 Halfway, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower
 Spacious Living Room with River Views
 Kitchen with White Goods
 Dining Room, Immaculate Communal Gardens
 Parking Space, Sky TV enabled.

£600 pcm



Bank Drive, Dorington

Immaculate 2 Bedroom Bungalow
 Highly Sought After Location South of Shrewsbury
 Unfurnished
 Newly Renovated Throughout
 Kitchen including White Goods
 Well Established Front and Rear Gardens
 Garage and Driveway Parking

£595 pcm



Lanesfield, Radbrook Green

Recently Refurbished Two Bed Semi Detached House
 Popular Residential Area of Radbrook Green
 Entrance Lobby, Living Room with Feature Wall
 New Breakfast Kitchen with White Goods
 Understairs Storage Cupboard
 Master Bedroom with Built In Wardrobes
 Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower

£575 pcm



Greenfield Gardens, Shrewsbury

New Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
 Unfurnished
 Communal Hall, Hall, Living Room
 Kitchen including White Goods,
 Two Double Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms
 Secure Parking Space

£575 pcm



Harley Road, Condoever

Detached Bungalow in Quiet Village Loca-
 tion
 Porch, Hall, Living Room, Kitchen,
 Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower
 Gas Central Heating, Attached Garage
 Front And Rear Garden, Garden Shed
 Driveway Parking.

£550 pcm



Wenlock Road, Shrewsbury

Mature Two Bedroom Terrace House
 Unfurnished
 Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room
 Kitchen including White Goods, Shower Room
 Double Bedroom with Cupboard
 Double Bedroom with Wardrobes
 Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

£550 pcm



Knolls Farm Close, Meole Brace

Well Presented Three Bedroom End Terrace
 Close to Local Amenities
 Entrance Vestibule, Living Room, Kitchen
 Utility including Tumble Dryer and Freezer
 Door to Rear Patio Garden
 Three Bedrooms, Spacious Shower Room
 New Carpets, GCH, Double Glazing

£545 pcm



Cunningham Way, Herongate

Well Maintained Two Bedroom Terraced House
 Located in a Popular Area Close to Local Amenities
 Entrance Hall, Kitchen/Diner with White Goods
 Double Bedroom with Built In Wardrobes
 Single Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower
 Full Double Glazing, Parking for Two Cars
 Enclosed Private Rear Garden with Lawn and Patio

£525 pcm



St Marys Place, Town Centre

Refurbished First Floor Apartment in the Town Centre
 Communal Entrance, Spacious Hall with Storage Space,
 Kitchen including Oven & Hob,
 Large Living Room Overlooking the Church Green
 Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Separate Shower
 Parking available on separate licence

£475 pcm



Churchill Road, Copthorne

Refurbished Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
 Located within Walking Distance of RSH
 Living Room with Picturesque Outlook
 Kitchen, Bathroom including Shower
 Two Double Bedrooms
 New Carpets Throughout,
 Private Garden to the side of the Property

£450 pcm



Belgravia Court, Abbey Foregate

Superb Georgian Style Ground Floor Apartment
 Walking Distance of the Town Centre
 Unfurnished
 Living Room with Fitted Kitchen Area
 Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower
 Carpets & Curtains
 1 Parking Space

£450 pcm



London House, Town Walls

Completely Refurbished Top Floor Flat
 Town Centre Flat with Allocated Parking
 Communal Entrance Hall, Hall
 Shower Room with Washing Machine
 Kitchen including White Goods
 Spacious Living Room, Double Bed-
 room.

£450 pcm



St Johns Hill, Town Centre

Second Floor Apartment in Town Centre
 Stairs to Entrance Hall
 Landing with Cupboards
 Galley Kitchen, White Goods Included
 Sitting/Dining Area with Open Fire
 Double Bedroom with Wardrobe
 Bathroom with Shower.

£400 pcm



Wyle Cop, Town Centre

Beautifully Renovated One Bedroom Flat
 Historic Building on Wyle Cop
 Covering the 1st and 2nd Floor
 New Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower
 Washing Machine, Cooker/Hob & Fridge
 New Carpets and Curtains Throughout

£400 pcm



Conway Drive, Monkmoor

Spacious One Bedroom First Floor Flat
 Unfurnished
 Kitchen with Dining Area, Hall, Bathroom
 Large Living Room, Double Bedroom
 Gas central heating, Carpets & Curtains
 Parking

£395 pcm



Wyle Cop, Town Centre

A Refurbished Town Centre Apartment.
 Unfurnished
 Communal Entrance, Sitting Room
 New Kitchen including Cooker
 Fridge/Freezer & Breakfast Bar
 New Shower Room, Double Bedroom.

£395 pcm



King Street, Cherry Orchard

One Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
 Situated in the Popular area of Cherry Orchard
 Entrance Hall, Living Room with Gas Fire
 Double Bedroom, Bathroom
 Kitchen including Oven & Hob, Fridge/Freezer
 Carpets & Curtains, Private Rear Garden
 On-Street Parking

£380 pcm



Drawwell Street, Belle Vue

Ground Floor Flat with Parking Space
 One Bedroom with Built in Wardrobe
 En-Suite Shower Room
 Living Room with Electric Fire
 Two Storage Cupboards, Kitchen
 New Flooring, Double Glazing
 Redecorated Throughout

£375 pcm



St Michaels Street, Shrewsbury

Modern Second Floor Apartment
 Walking Distance to the Town Centre
 Unfurnished
 Communal Entrance Hall, Hall
 Living Room with Dining Area
 Kitchen Area including White Goods
 Double Bedroom, Shower Room.

£370 pcm



Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury

Second Floor Studio Flat
 Open Plan Accommodation
 Living Room/Kitchen/Bedroom
 Hallway leading to Shower Room/WC
 Electric Cooker, Fridge included
 Fitted Carpets
 Large Shared Gardens

£295 pcm



Abbey Apartments, Abbey Foregate

Second Floor Studio Flat in Georgian
 Building
 Walking Distance to the Town Centre
 Entrance Hall, Sitting Room/Bedroom
 Kitchen with White Goods
 Bathroom with shower
 Carpets & Curtains

£265 pcm

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SHREWSBURY £525 pcm



ALMS COURT, MEOLE BRACE

This newly decorated 2-bedroom modern semi-detached house, is situated within a quiet and popular development, close to the town centre and good road networks. Entrance hall, open plan living/dining room, kitchen with cooker, washing machine & fridge, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, GCH, easy to maintain gardens & parking. Available end of June

SHREWSBURY £650 pcm



KINGSLAND BRIDGE MANSIONS

This exceptionally well-appointed, 2-bedroom ground floor apartment, is situated within a prestigious building, in the heart of the town centre. Security intercom entry system, entrance hall, open plan living/dining room and kitchen with built-in oven & hob/washer dryer & fridge, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, well maintained communal gardens, electric heating & parking. Available NOW

SHREWSBURY £750 pcm



PERCY STREET, GREENFIELDS

This spacious and well appointed 3-bedroom detached family house, is situated within easy walking distance of the town centre and Shrewsbury train station. The accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen with cooker, downstairs cloak room, outhouse, 3 bedrooms, newly fitted bathroom with shower. The property also benefits from easy to maintain gardens, off street parking with a garage, GCH and original features throughout. Available beginning of July.

SHREWSBURY £515 pcm



BELGRAVIA COURT, ABBEY FOREGATE

This exceptionally well-appointed and stylish 1-bedroom third floor loft style apartment, located within easy walking distance of the town centre. Entrance hall, open plan living room and kitchen with built-in appliances, double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, bathroom with shower and electric heating. Allocated parking and well maintained communal gardens. Available NOW.

SHREWSBURY £550 pcm



BRASSEY HOUSE, BENBOW QUAY

This immaculately appointed and stylish ground floor furnished one bedroom apartment located within easy walking distance of the town centre and train station. Security intercom entry system, entrance hall, open plan living room and kitchen with built-in oven and hob, washer dryer and fridge, double bedroom, bathroom with shower and electric heating. The property benefits from large maintained gardens and allocated parking. Available NOW

SHREWSBURY £795 pcm



CARLTON CLOSE

This newly decorated and well-appointed 3-bedroom detached family house, is situated within a quiet cul-de-sac position, close to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, & local amenities. Entrance hall, cloakroom, living room, kitchen/breakfast room with cooker & fridge, 3 bedrooms (master with ensuite), family bathroom, front and rear gardens, GCH, driveway and garage. Available NOW.

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Five-bedroom dwelling looks over farmland

A SUPERB five-bedroom detached family home on a corner plot with panoramic views over farmland is for sale priced at around £475,000 with no upward chain. Number 3 Marches Meadow, Ruyton-XI-Towns, includes a reception hall, living room with fireplace and woodburner, dining room, large breakfast kitchen, study and cloakroom. Upstairs are five bedrooms, two ensuite, and a family bathroom. There is a double garage and attractive landscaped gardens.

For more details please call Barbers on (01743) 276200 or visit www.barbers-online.co.uk



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Region £665,000

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THE OLD FORGE

- Spacious Detached House
- Six Bedroom (5 Double), Four Reception Rooms,
- Large Well Kept Gardens, Veg Plot, Poultry Runs,
- Double Garage, Oil CH, DG,
- Features of Character
- Viewing Recommended

Region £375,000

Whitchurch

RUXTON XI TOWNS



Marches Meadow

- Stunning & Spacious Family Home
- Corner Plot & Cul de Sac Location
- Reception Hall, Living Room, WC
- Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Study
- 5 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, Gardens
- Overlooks Fields, Double Garage

Region £475,000

Shrewsbury

COPTHORNE



Woodfield Road

- Immaculate Detached Family Home
- Reception Hall, Lounge, Sitting Room
- Attractive Kitchen/Diner, Gas C.H, W.C,
- 5 Bedrooms, En Suite & Bathroom

SIMILAR PROPERTIES WANTED

Region £375,000

Shrewsbury



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COPTHORNE



Richmond Drive

- Extended Semi Det House, No Chain
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility
- Conservatory, 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Attractive Gardens, Off rd Parking
- Close to Shrewsbury Town Centre
- Part Exchange Considered

Region £215,000

Shrewsbury

MONKMOOR



Harvey Gardens

- Immaculate Modern Semi Det House
- Cloaks, Living Room, Dining/Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas C.H, D.G
- Parking for 2 Cars & Rear Garden

Region £169,995

Shrewsbury

SHREWSBURY



OXON HALL

- Spacious Penthouse Apartment,
- Two Double Bedrooms with Wardrobes
- One En-suite and Main Bathroom,

Region £199,950

Shrewsbury

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Castle Hill Barn

- Stunning Barn in Rural Location
- Half Timbered & Sandstone
- Six Bedrooms 5 En-Suites
- 3 Recep Rooms, Luxury Kitchen
- Triple Garage/ Accomodation Above
- Views & Viewing Recommended

Region £600,000

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EATON UPON TERN



- Brand New Five Bedroom Detached House
- Two En-suite and Main Bathroom
- Open Plan Kitchen, Utility Room
- Lounge, Drawing Rm, Study,
- Double Garage, Gardens, High Specification Finish,
- No Upward Chain, Rural Location

Region £565,000

Market Drayton

BICTON HEATH



Squirrel Walk

- A Well Presented Detached House
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen
- Conservatory, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Large Landscaped Gardens, Garage
- Located at End of Cul De Sac
- Viewing Recommended

Region £205,000

Shrewsbury

CROSS HOUSES



Haycock House

- Immaculate 2nd Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
- Double Bedroom, Luxury Bathroom
- Furnished & Allocated Car Parking

£495 pcm

Shrewsbury

NEWS

www.oswestrychronicle.com 01691 668094

Petition appeal to windfarm objectors

PEOPLE WHO oppose the Welsh Assembly Government's policy on windfarms are being urged to sign a petition before the closing date of midday on June 17.

The petition has been set up by John Day from Bwlchyfridd and can be found at http://www.assembly.wales.org/gethome/e-petitions/petition-list-of-signatories.htm?pet_id=579.

It calls on the Assembly Government to change its policy on windfarms, better known as Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8: Planning for Renewable Energy (2005).

To connect electricity generated by up to 17 proposed new windfarms in the Montgomeryshire and bordering uplands, National Grid is proposing to build a 20-acre substation either at Abermule, near Newtown, or at Cefn Coch, near Llanfair Caereinion.

Electricity harvested by the substation will then be carried in 400,000 volt cables to the existing National Grid line in Shropshire, either along the Severn on Vyrnwy valleys.

Campaigners argue that if there are no new windfarms built in Montgomeryshire there will be no need for the substation, pylons or cables. They also claim that wind turbines are inefficient and would not be viable without generous Government subsidies.

Mr Day said he had to wait until after the National Assembly of Wales elections before being able to set up the e-Petition: Say No to Tan 8 - Windfarms and High Voltage Power Lines Spoiling our Community.

New mayor's honoured to take on prestigious role

OSWESTRY'S LATEST town mayor Cynthia Hawksley never imagined she would be honoured with the prestigious title and thanks her two daughters for giving her the inspiration to aim high.

Councillor Hawksley says her passion for the town prompted her to become a councillor around 20 years ago.

Now with the official chain sitting proudly around her shoulders she hopes to represent the town in her new role as best she can.

Aided by her daughter, Emma Roberts, as her consort, Councillor Hawksley wants to work towards her vision of helping to keep Oswestry vibrant, full of independent traders and promote the youth.

Very proud

"I have never been mayor before," she said. "I must admit my two children have really given me the inspiration."

"Our children have grown up and do good things. Emma is a nurse and Charlotte is a doctor training to be a psychiatrist."

"I am very proud of them both. They have worked hard to achieve their careers."

Councillor Hawksley has many plans for her year in office and believes there has been no prejudice about her being a woman and taking on the role.

"Women are given a place in society. There were two women mayors before me. That shows in the town women do have a role to play."

Councillor Hawksley, who was born in Bridgnorth, moved to the town in 1975 after meeting an Oswestrian.

As soon as she arrived she felt completely welcomed by residents and she has now lived here for 35 years.

Before retirement she worked at an insurance brokers in the town. "I thoroughly enjoyed my job," she said. "It was one where I was able to meet and help all kinds of people."

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

with Chrissy Symmons



Mrs Hawksley became 'very fond' of the town and as her affection grew she began to realise she wanted to give something back.

So she decided to stand as a councillor and now, 20 years later, she has been elected to represent the town as mayor.

"I never thought I would be in this position," she revealed. "Life doesn't stay still and you have various different chapters. I wanted to do something for the town. I wanted to find some way I might be able to help."

"I have always been fond of Oswestry and the people are extremely friendly."

The mayor wants to use her role to promote the town centre, its independent shops and keep the market town image.

"I think the local shops, the individual shops, are so important to a town like Oswestry. They have something unique to offer."

Councillor Hawksley, who is also a grandmother, has been chairman and vice chairman of various major committees on the council and represented the council on many local organisations.

One of her greatest loves is her role as vice chairman of the Oswestry Youth Music Festival that attracts entries from over 1,000 young people each March.

She is also an active member of Oswestry and District Arts Association.

This year she has chosen to help raise funds for two charities Oswestry Talking Newspaper for the Blind and the Cricket Federation for People with Disabilities (Oswestry).

She said: "I am enjoying being mayor and representing the town. It is a privilege."



Cynthia Hawksley thanks her daughters for inspiring her

Student wins top award

A BLIND Mid Wales man has won a national adult learners award for studying with the Open University while also helping community groups.

Richard Zimble, from Welshpool, has won the national Distance Learner of the Year award at the Inspire! Adult Learner Awards, run by NIACE Dysgu Cymru, the adult learning charity.

Mr Zimble is a student with The Open University in Wales. He has overcome many obstacles in his life but remains an "inspirational role model" to others, the judges said.

He was presented with the award at Swansea's Brangwyn Hall.

Richard was born with Laurence-Moon-Bardet-Biedl Syndrome and copes with other problems associated with this condition. He has had deteriorating sight all of his life and has been blind for seven years.

Despite his disability Richard has strived to be active in his local community, through the charities that he volunteers for. He is chairman of the Oldford Communities First Partnership on his estate and is a student volunteer for the OU, helping to promote learning to others.

Police appeal after attack

POLICE ARE investigating an incident in Willow Street, Oswestry, in which a man was head-butted in the face.

The 22-year-old victim was knocked to the ground by a man who kicked him in the head before running off on May 30.

Police have appealed for witnesses to call 0300 333 3000 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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NEWS

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Blaze hits at chip shop days before it was to reopen

A FIRE has wrecked a chip shop on the day it was due to reopen under new management.

More than 30 firefighters tackled the blaze at Whittington Fish Bar.

Nobody was injured but police were forced to close the main road, which caused tailbacks onto the A483 Oswestry bypass.

Owner Balwinder Singh Chatha said: "I was in there with two of my staff getting the chip pans ready for our reopening when the fire just went up.

Fright

"It was a real fright. I turned the gas off and got the staff out of the shop and I told the neighbours there was a fire.

"We had been shut for two weeks after the last tenants left and we were just getting ready to open again. It is very upsetting but we will open as soon as possible.

"The main thing is that nobody was injured."

Oswestry fire station manager John Davies said: "Thick smoke and flames were issuing from the front door of the kitchen area of the chip shop, and flames were also coming from the roof. The heat was intense."

He added an investigation into the cause of the blaze last week was under way.



Whittington Fish Bar owner Balwinder Singh Chatha outside his burned-out premises

'Crucial role' for farming shows

AGRICULTURAL shows play a crucial role in preserving a country way of life, says the president of this year's Llanfyllin Show.

Businessman James Pickstock from Plas Dyffryn, Meifod, is looking forward to the annual event on August 13.

"I am highly honoured to be invited to become show president," he said. "The community has supported my business and I have great friends in Llanfyllin, which has an excellent banking facility that I use daily for my business."

"It also has excellent shops and restaurants and the show reflects the great community spirit."

"It's very important to local communities that shows of this type keep going and are traditional. I think youngsters should be encouraged by their parents to show whatever exhibits they have and it doesn't have to be a prize-winning beast!"

"I fear that young people are no longer learning practical skills that we grew up with. That's where local shows, like Llanfyllin, come in because they do encourage children to learn skills."

"The show attracts a mixture of country and town residents as well as visitors to the area and I think it plays a key role as an educational day. This is an event where you can see agriculture at its best."

Mr Pickstock has fond memories of the show from his childhood. A member of Llanfyllin Cricket Club, he is organising his president's lunch for July 31.

Tickets are now on sale from show committee members.

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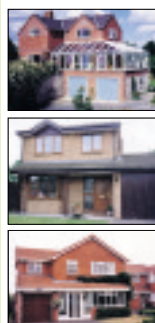
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NEWS

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Bid to spare trees from council's axe

CAMPAIGNERS IN Oswestry are calling for council chiefs not to take the axe to town centre trees at the height of the tourist season.

Shropshire Council says it cannot confirm when it will send a team to cut down the cherry trees at Festival Square.

Oswestry businesswoman Jools Payne has led a campaign to keep the trees and said council chiefs should now wait for the main tourist season to end before felling the trees. She said a busy tourist season was vital to businesses in the town and many people came to Oswestry to enjoy the townscape which the Festival Square trees offered.

Last year, Shirehall officers gave approval for the nine trees in Festival Square to be felled after councillors heard they were posing a health and safety problem.

Decision

Officers said tree roots were causing iron grids to lift in the street and some surrounding paving slabs to buckle.

The councillors agreed that the cherry trees would be replaced by new trees, a variety called Golden Rain. But months later the trees are still standing.

Mrs Payne said: "We are still campaigning for the trees to be retained and we think it is the wrong decision."

"We think some of the healthy trees can still be retained and an alternative should be looked at in how to deal with the trip hazard the council say has been created."

"A lot of business people in the town have been asking when the trees are to go and what we don't want is the work to start when the town is trying to attract tourists and visitors during the summer months."

"We are still campaigning to keep the trees but we at the very least we want the work to be delayed until after the tourist season. The trees in glorious blossom last month resonated with many and put their fate back on the radar."

"We still have campaigners who have offered to chain themselves to the trees when the council comes to remove them."

Ron Buzzacott, head of highways and transport at Shropshire Council, said: "We are looking at the most appropriate period for carrying out the works to the trees and the car park."



Jools Payne who is campaigning to stop the trees being felled



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NEWS

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Schools change concerns

SENDING WELSH and English-speaking children from Llanfyllin to separate schools would lead to a divided community, parents have claimed.

A survey carried out by the Friends of Llanfyllin School has shown that 90 per cent of parents believe the move would split the area.

The survey was undertaken to gauge local opinion on Powys County Council's school modernisation proposals.

There are fears the council may decide the school should become a single language one, with a much reduced sixth form.

Diana Dunn, secretary of the friends, said: "For years we had been a fundraising body supporting school events."

"But with the recent threat to our school we felt that we needed to take our role further."

"Respondents from both Welsh and English speaking backgrounds were equally opposed to the school losing its designation as a bilingual school and local parents have described the proposals as 'cultural apartheid'."

Shakespeare sets the scene for contest winner



EVERY PICTURE tells a story and one taken by a young photographer from the Oswestry border tells one of the best known love stories in the world.

Emma Startin's photo, which captures a line from *Romeo and Juliet*, has won a national competition run by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

It is now being turned into thousands of postcards which will be distributed in universities across Britain to publicise the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Emma, 18, who has just finished her A-levels at Llanfyllin High School Sixth form, is a member of the RSC Key scheme to encourage young people's interest in Shakespeare.

"I heard about the photographic competition it was running and decided to take a photo to illustrate

the line from *Romeo and Juliet*, 'Did my heart love till now?', she said.

"I wanted to put the play into the modern world and wanted to capture that moment of love at first sight. I chose to use the trees to frame the girl and boy."

Emma, pictured right, asked 18-year-olds Serena Worvil and Henry Thompson to play the parts of Romeo and Juliet and said they were only too happy to

help. Now they will be seen across Britain on the postcards. Emma went to Stratford-upon-Avon to spend the day with the RSC and was given some of the cards.

"I was also given the chance to see one of the productions but unfortunately couldn't stay for the evening," she said.

She hopes to study English literature at Swansea University and her dream is to one day write plays.



Bible tale told from beginning

A RARE, 400-YEAR-OLD copy of the Bible is coming to Oswestry later this month to feature in a non-stop reading marathon which could involve more than 300 volunteers.

Organisers said the celebrations to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible were already uniting the town.

A first edition King James Bible from 1611 will be on display at St Oswald's Church from June 14 to 19.

At the heart of the celebration will be a non-stop Bible read-through, which will take about 83 hours to complete.

The psalms will be read out by people walking around town, but most of the read-through will take place in the church.

It will run continuously throughout the day and night. The 1611 Bible, which is being lent by the Museum of the Book in London, will be used for the opening and closing readings.

Organiser Elaine Leek said people had volunteered to take part, from schools, businesses, organisations and other churches.

"We still have some slots available - we simply ask people to commit to reading for a 10-minute slot."

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Damaged car leads to arrests

POLICE MADE two arrests in Llanfyllin on Saturday after specialist police officers responded to a call that two men, one reportedly carrying an axe, had damaged a car.

Officers were joined by a dog unit after residents in Bridge Street called 999 after the Ford Mondeo was damaged.

The vehicle, as well as an axe, were recovered by police and are now being examined.

Inspector Diane Davies said: "This is a highly unusual offence for the area."

"I want to assure the public that Dyfed-Powys Police has highly trained specialist resources able to respond effectively to incidents like this within our communities."

"We are grateful to members of the Llanfyllin community for their assistance and co-operation."

Anyone with information relating to this matter is asked to contact Constable Sharon Phillips at Welshpool Police Station on 101.

Alternatively, you can call the free and anonymous Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Colleges' governors giving their blessing to merger

A SHROPSHIRE COLLEGE has moved a step closer to merging with another in Cheshire after governors backed the proposals.

Walford and North Shropshire College and Reaseheath College, in Nantwich, announced that they were in talks about a possible merger earlier this year.

Now the scheme has won backing from governors at both colleges. It means Government education chiefs will now examine the merits of a possible merger.

If successful, the change could take place as soon as April 2012.

It would affect the college's campuses at Oswestry and Walford, near Baschurch.

Bosses insist a merged institution would have benefits for students and the local economies of both counties.

New jobs could be on the cards if the merger comes off, but its too early to say how many roles might be created.

Lucy Evans, a WNSC spokeswoman, said: "The board of governors at both colleges have voted in favour of a merger and now the Government will be looking at the proposals."

In a joint statement, the colleges said that merging would create "the potential to provide an even wider and better educational experience for all current and future learners, as well as positively impacting on the local economies of both counties".

The statement continued: "The merger would positively affect the student experience and the quality of provision at the colleges."

"The resulting investment capacity would deliver increased value and drive new opportunities for all learners; a merged college would have a level of financial strength to be able to invest more extensively in course development, the estates, the learning environment, and new technology."

"Both colleges see the potential benefits of combining resources, expertise and reputations as well as paving the way for an increase in recruitment across all areas of the curriculum, including higher education, through such a venture."

Under the plans there would also be opportunities for both colleges to benefit from the provision offered by each other and to extend the range of the curriculum at the three main campuses.

Artist Angie's work goes on show



AN EXHIBITION of oil and watercolour paintings by Powys artist Angie Winterbottom has been showing at Welshpool Tourist Information Centre. Taking a look at a Snowdon oil painting is Wendy Lewis, team leader at the centre.
Picture: Simon Williams

NEWS

in brief

Police's pledge on drink-drivers

POLICE HAVE promised a drink and drugs-driving clampdown for summer motorists in Mid Wales.

Police say there is "absolutely no excuse" for driving after drinking or taking drugs.

Dyfed Powys Police has teamed up with the three other Welsh police forces to deliver the message "Think Before You Drink" to drivers who drink or take drugs.

The campaign aims to crack down on drivers who officers say risk lives by driving under the influence. Anyone caught faces a driving ban, jail or a fine of up to £5,000.

In the 2010 campaign, of the 25,714 people in Wales stopped and tested, 513 tested positive, refused or failed a breath test.

Day out planned

PEOPLE ARE invited to take a weekend break to Scarborough.

The trip will take place from July 15 until July 17 and is organised by Oswestry Senior Citizens Club.

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Warning and tips on food hygiene

SUMMER FOOD poisoning warnings have gone out to the people of Welshpool from Powys County Council. Residents have been reminded about the importance of good food hygiene in the home this summer when levels of food poisoning soar.

The council's environmental health team has issued the reminder during the Food Standards Agency's Food Safety Week.

The team will have displays at the council's office in Severn Street where food safety tips and quiz sheets will be available. Lunch box size cool bags, supplied by the FSA, will also be available while stocks last.

Councillor Geraint Hopkins, cabinet member for environment and regulation, said: "Food poisoning is a miserable experience but can be so easily avoided. Just storing, handling and cooking food properly will minimise the risk."

The FSA advises the following principles:

- Proper cooking will kill food bugs. It's especially important to make sure poultry, pork, burgers and sausages are cooked all the way through.
- Avoiding cross-contamination is also extremely important. Make sure you store raw meat covered and at the bottom of the fridge.
- Clean hands in the kitchen are vital in the fight against food poisoning while food must be kept at the right temperature.

For more advice visit www.nhs.uk/Livewell/home/hygiene/Pages/Homehygienehub.aspx

Going for gold: it's time to do your bit for Bloom

OSWESTRY'S GARDENERS, shops, pubs and businesses are being urged to get involved in this year's In Bloom competition.

The town's in-bloom committee and town council are already gearing up to enter the 2011 Heart of England competition, with hanging baskets and planters being put up in the streets this week.

Oswestry in-bloom committee, in conjunction with the council, organises its own competition which is judged by Margaret Thrower, horticulturalist, businesswoman and daughter of television gardener Percy Thrower.

Earlier this year Miss Thrower was awarded a special community award from the town council for her work.

Louise Humphreys, from the in-bloom committee, said entries for the event had to be in by June 27, in time for the judging which will take place on July 11 and 12.

Evergreen

"We have more than a dozen different categories," she said.

Householders can enter classes for the best front gardens for flower beds, all year colour and evergreen and there is also a class for the best rear garden.

Those with courtyards, patios and even balconies can also enter the competition.

Schools can take part with an award for the best kept school and one for the most outstanding work by young people as well as one for the best community project or premises. There are also classes for the best town centre commercial premises, the best commercial premises on an industrial estate, the best pub or hotel and the best dressed window in the town centre.

"In addition to our local competition Oswestry will again be entering into the Heart of England in Bloom competition which will be judged on July 20," said Louise.

"Oswestry has won a gold award for six years running and we need the support of local people, from individuals to businesses and traders to help Oswestry retain the gold standard."

The committee and town council will draw up a route for the national judges to tour the town and its surroundings when they visit next month.

Entry forms for the local in-bloom competition are available from Oswestry Town Council at the Guildhall in Bailey Head or telephone (01691) 680222.



Councillor Betty Gull with some hanging baskets in Oswestry Town Centre. Picture: Peter Flemmich

Hunt for best in business

TIME is running out to enter the 2011 Powys Business Awards.

The third annual awards contest has new categories and companies have until June 20 to enter.

Last year's business awards were a huge success, celebrated in a glittering dinner and awards presentation attended by over 200 guests.

This year's awards were launched at a breakfast event last month hosted by the joint organisers of the awards, Powys County Council.

Companies large and small are being encouraged to enter the awards, which celebrate excellence in business in the county and bring recognition in the local and regional business communities.

A spokesperson for the organisers said: "These awards are a fantastic opportunity for businesses to raise their profile."

"Businesses are independently judged on their excellent standards."

To download an entry form or enter online visit www.powysbusinessawards.co.uk

Castle hosts outdoor play

WHITTINGTON Castle will play host to an outdoor production of *Daisy Pulls It Off* later this month.

The Mikrokosmos Theatre Company will perform the comedy in the grounds of the castle near Oswestry on June 24.

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Shining a spotlight on the pubs and hostelries of memory lane

by Toby Neal

TIME TO put the 'local' into your local paper – by shining the pictorial spotlight on one or two pubs and hotels of yesteryear in Oswestry.

These days pubs are closing at a frightening rate, so there will be lots of hostelries in the town which are just fading memories.

We start our trip down memory lane at the old Queen's Hotel in Leg Street, thanks to a photo loaned to us by Shrewsbury author and historian David Trumper.

It has no date, but judging by the car it's around 1910. At some stage the square corner of the hotel was chamfered off – to open out the junction into Oswald Road a bit, presumably.

Smoking

The building is now flats, a shop, a youth cafe and Qube gallery. When did the Queen's Hotel close? Good question – answers on a postcard please.

Next stop is Ye Olde Butcher's Arms in Willow Street. And we know what it was like inside thanks to a drawing dating from about 1950 by Alan Roulstone, who was a professional pub artist, and lived at Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog.

He made black and white drawings of pubs for advertising purposes between 1949 and 1987.

This picture was loaned to us by his son Michael Roulstone, of Llangnog. What the picture doesn't capture is the blue-grey smoke haze that a lot of pubs had in the days when smoking was allowed in them.

The Butcher's Arms, which is thought to date back to Elizabethan times, still stands, of course, so you can still get a drink there and savour the olde world atmosphere.

But it was a near run thing. Around the early 1960s there were proposals to demolish it and replace it with a modern building. Thankfully, wiser counsels prevailed.

Lastly, we'll go back to another Oswestry hotel – the Bear Hotel this time – and meet the staff, thanks to a photo which was e-mailed to us by Edward Fitzpatrick, of Trench Bridge Farm, Ellesmere.

"The picture shows, seated in the centre, my maternal great-grandparents, Richard and Mary-Elizabeth Richards, in the back yard of the Bear Hotel, Oswestry, some time around 1922 I'm thinking.

"They ran the Bear Hotel from 1919 until my great grandfather's death in 1938.

"On the far right, seated, is my grandmother along with her sister and brothers, and also members of the Bear Hotel staff standing at the back," he told us.

You won't find the Bear today – it's been renamed quite recently.



Staff at the Bear Hotel, Oswestry



Ye Olde Butcher's Arms, Oswestry, drawn in about 1950



The Queen's Hotel, Oswestry

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CHEMISTS OPEN outside normal hours this week include:

Willow Street Pharmacy, 6 Willow Street, Monday to Friday 9am-5.30pm (Thursday 5pm), Saturday 9am-1pm, Sunday: Closed.

Church Street Pharmacy, 23 Church Street, Monday to Friday 9am-5.30pm, Saturday 9am-12noon, Sunday: Closed.

Boots The Chemist, 5-7 Church Street, Monday to Saturday 9am-5.30pm, Sunday 10am-4pm.

Pharmacy @ Caxton, Oswald Road, Monday to Friday 8.30am-6pm, Saturday 8.30am-12noon.

Xpress Healthcare, t/a Station Pharmacy, The Station Building, Oswald Road, Monday to Thursday 8am-10pm, Friday 8am-8.30pm, Saturday 9am to midnight, Sunday midnight to 4.30pm.

IT WAS A massive winning week on the breakfast show as we gave away more tickets to see Elton John play his Shropshire gig at the Greenhous Meadow.

I also gave away several pairs of tickets for the model air show at Weston Park. Plus the usual host of Sunday Lunch vouchers, flowers and cakes were also given away.

It was back to work and school this week making things busier for Shropshire but at least we are on the final half term of the academic year so we have a nice summer holiday to look forward to.

Walks

Last Saturday night I had the pleasure of launching the first of two midnight walks for the Severn Hospice.

I must extend thanks to the staff at TCAI who were very accommodating of the walkers and marshals for the event.

Over 400 women all dressed in pink Severn Hospice T-shirts, coloured wigs and various fancy dress set off on a sponsored walk around Telford. If you would like to join in the next walk which is around Shrewsbury on Saturday, July 2, and have a bit of a laugh with me whilst raising money for the Severn Hospice, then log onto www.severnhospice.org.uk

In other local news: a sponsored walk around the grounds of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital is being organised

by the Rheumatology Research Group who are based in the Arthritis Research Centre. All funds raised will go to the League of Friends who give considerable help to the research carried out at the hospital. If you'd like to take part call Dr Whittle or Dr Smith on 01691 404139.

Remember, if you are a local group or are holding an event and would like myself or The Severn Team to get involved then drop me an e-mail with all the information and we'll try and give you a mention during the breakfast show and I will do my best to attend. E-mail me neil.bentley@thesevern.co.uk. You can always contact the studio by phone on 0333 456 0777.

Thank you to personal trainer Andy from Studio 1 gym in Shrewsbury who has offered to put Carlie and I through our paces with a personal training session.

Well I can just tell that Andy will go easy on Carlie but I bet you any money I'll end up in a big sweaty mess.

This nicely follows a recent experience I had on a Flabell machine, which is possibly the funniest piece of gym equipment I have ever been on.

To be honest, I think the fact I ended up laughing with tears was the best workout I've had in a long time.

The Neil Bentley Breakfast Show, weekdays from 6am on 106.5, 107.1 and 107.4fm The Severn.

Follow us on Twitter @thesevern or listen online at www.thesevern.co.uk

Cash boost for riders

AN OSWESTRY club has received a £350 grant thanks to the efforts of one of its volunteers.

Oswestry Riding Club has received the cash through the BT Community Champions award scheme thanks to the voluntary work of Trish Seabury, a BT employee.

Run by the BT Volunteering team, BT Community Champions awards employees with funding on behalf of local community groups, charities and organisations where they work on a voluntary basis.

The riding club will be spending its

award on mobile cross country fences.

New Seabury, chairman of Oswestry Riding Club, said: "We are very pleased with our BT Community Champions award. At the moment we have limited funds to hire purpose-built cross country sites for schooling and competitions, so our members have lost the opportunity to grow in that area."

"By receiving this allowance, we can purchase a set of mobile cross country fences, and use them in members' fields, at much less cost. This will give us the added flexibility of holding cross country events at various venues."



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After victory in front of his home fans in 2008, Lewis Hamilton will be looking to emulate this success again, whilst Jenson Button would love to win at Silverstone and join the list of elite British drivers to win in front of a home crowd, including Jackie Stewart, James Hunt, Nigel Mansell, Damon Hill and David Coulthard.

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THE ARTS

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Six-night run for show

MEMBERS of Tanat Theatre are in rehearsals for their next production, *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell.

It will be taking to the stage at Llanrhaeadr Public Hall on June 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £6 each available from the Paper Shop, Post Office and Greatorex Stores in Llanrhaeadr and Upstairs Downstairs in Oswestry, or through Alan Jones on (01691) 860497.

On stage will be, left to right, Loren Morris, 14, playing Linda, Ben Vaughan, 20, playing Mickey and Joanna Ferguson playing Mrs Lyons.

This play is not suitable for young children as it contains some strong language.

Picture: Simon Williams



Production had one of best sets ever seen

THE undoubted star of the Oswestry Big Cigar's latest production was nowhere to be seen during its three performances.

He was Marches School head caretaker Cliff Sagar who was part of the brilliant backstage crew that brought Norman Robbins' *Prescription for Murder* vividly to life on the Marches School stage.

Not only was Cliff burdened with the task of director-producer, but he managed to take time out to create one of the best stage sets ever seen in Oswestry.

During school down-time he created an up-market lounge, so well furnished and complete with recessed cocktail cabinet and eight lights, that it would not have looked out of place in a five-star hotel.

There was an audible gasp, on the last of the three-night production, when the curtains opened and Cliff's handiwork was revealed. It was breathtakingly good and a great base for the hardworking cast of seven to unwind a plot of mystery and suspense with an ending that would have done Agatha Christie proud.

Other crew included his wife Ann Sagar, on front of house, Dave Morgan on lighting, Gordon McCombe on photography, Kirsty Dawson on programmes and Helen Roberts as the prompt.

On stage, Stephen Humphreys gave a powerful performance of a village doctor convinced his wife played so ably and convincingly by Debra Collings, was a hypochondriac. But the unexpected climax proved she was far worse than that.

The couple's friends, played by excellent veteran actor Malcolm Lord and his domineering stage wife Margaret Lloyd, who was word perfect and so professional, battled the plot well between the doctor's charlatry, played so ably by Barbara Wilcock, and the doctor and his wife.

Then enter stage left, sophisticated widow, played by Janet Williams, who tried to woo the doctor and whose pledge of a £40 million legacy for him, proved a plot blinder. She is a great asset to the Big Cigar and a catalyst to the audience's wild suppositions. Playing at first a puzzling part and then a crucial role was Simon Williams.

It was an accomplished performance following the group's excellent *Fish out of Water* production in February.

Make a note of the next performance will intriguingly be called *Kindly Keep it Covered* during the last week of August.

DAVID PARRY-JONES

£2,000 given to town arts group

OSWESTRY'S thriving arts culture is to continue to receive local authority funding despite a change in the way Shropshire Council awards grants to the arts.

The council has ended its traditional, county-wide arts funding programme, instead dividing the money between the 20 Local Joint Committees across the county.

There had been fears it could mean the Oswestry and District Arts Association, which has for many years received funding to run its own small grants scheme, would miss out.

But at the latest Oswestry LJC meeting, councillors agreed to give £2,000,

the largest donation it could make, to the association.

Councillor Martin Bennett explained that the association, which was created in 1974, had been traditionally funded by the now dissolved Oswestry Borough Council, the county and Oswestry Town Council.

"It is an important association for Oswestry," he said.

"It can take a strategic look at the whole area and how the arts are funded."

In a report to the meeting, held at Cabin Lane Wholelife Centre, community action manager Kate Garner said moving the funding source simplified "the process of approving funding for projects that cover both Oswestry town and its surrounding hinterland".

EXHIBITIONS

FESTIVAL RETROSPECTIVE
CHAPEL BAR, THEATRE SEVERN
4th July - 11th Sept

VICTORIAN VIEWS
and the 2011 Gold Medal Winners
from Children's Competition
GALLERY, THEATRE SEVERN
17th June - 11th Sept

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17th - 19th June 2011

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Shrewsbury Library previously was Shrewsbury School. Come and hear about the history of this lovely building and take tea with the Victorian Headmaster.
Saturday 11th June

VICTORIAN AUTHORS (A TALK BY GORDON DICKINS)
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Friday 17th June

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SATURDAY 18TH JUNE

SHREWSBURY CARNIVAL AND THE SHROPSHIRE TEAM CHALLENGE

TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

From 10am

SHREWSBURY CARNIVAL

with

VICTORIAN FUN AND GAMES

From 10am - 9pm

VICTORIAN FUNFAIR

From 2pm

CARNIVAL PARADE PREPARES TO LEAVE THE QUARRY

From about 4:30 the Carnival presents prizes to floats and individuals.

From 6pm

THE BANDSTAND PHOTO BOOTH

From 7:30pm

SHROPSHIRE TEAM CHALLENGE

IN THE MAIN ARENA
and Theatre Severn 'Old Tyme Music Hall'

From 9:30pm

ILLUMINATIONS!

GIG GUIDE

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Music, dressing up and 'a bit of a do'



ENTERTAINMENT going on around Oswestry and the borders ranges from music to books to dressing up.

Let's kick off the weekend early with some music provided by the Ironworks, in Church Street, Oswestry.

The venue will be hosting a night with Gregory Alan Isakov with support from Mark Morgan.

Isakov is originally from Johannesburg, South Africa, and has a skill of crafting his songs into deep lyrical masterpieces.

Gathering

Influenced by Leonard Cohen, Iron and Wine and Kelly Joe Phelps, his songs have been described as "strong, subtle, a lyrical genius".

Doors will open at 8pm and tickets cost £7 if bought in advance or £8 on the door.

Timeless Vintage Clothing in Oswestry's The Willow Gallery has started a new gathering for fans of their garments.

Every Saturday in June the shop staff are inviting people to head down to their store from 11am until noon.

The Dress Up Saturday event is for people to pop along and try out the clothes and enjoy a non-alcoholic wine.

The Venue, at Park Hall, is also organising a bit of a summer do from 7.30pm on Saturday.

An evening of food and entertainment will be held in the acorn lounge and terrace to help raise cash for Trefonen pre-school. There is going to be



Brenda Blethyn as detective Vera Stanhope

a barbecue and disco. Tickets cost £15 and can be bought from The Venue, Trefonen village shop, or by calling 07773 135358.

Carnival spirit will be in the air at Glyn Ceiriog Carnival on Saturday.

The family event will see a host of activities including stalls, live music, competitions, assault course and vintage vehicles.

On Sunday Oswestry Showground will be hosting the second antiques and collectables fair.

Entry costs £3 or £2 for concessions.

And mid-week there will be an evening with best-selling author Ann

Cleeves at Oswestry's Booka Bookshop. Ann is famous for her books featuring detective Vera Stanhope.

She will be talking about her series of novels which have been turned into a television programme with Brenda Blethyn.

The award-winning crime writer will be at the shop on Wednesday from 7pm and tickets cost £5.

There will be refreshments and money off the book price.

The event should be booked in advance over the counter at the shop or by calling (01691) 662 244.

If you have a gig or event e-mail csymmons@shropshirestar.co.uk

SUNDAY 19TH JUNE PICNIC & PROMENADE ENTERTAINMENT, RACES AND FUNFAIR WITH GRAND CLOSING CEREMONY

TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

10am
ST CHAD'S CHURCH
VICTORIAN EUCHARIST
FOR TRINITY SUNDAY SUNG BY ST
CHAD'S CHOIR

MORRIS DANCING
11:30, 12:45PM, 1:15PM, 2PM FESTIVAL
MAIN GATES

10:30am
VICTORIAN TENNIS
TOURNAMENT AT SHREWSBURY
LAWN TENNIS CLUB
(LOCATED JUST PAST
KINGSLAND BRIDGE)

From 11am
THE BANDSTAND
11am - The Shrewsbury Consort of
Recorders, Hand Bells
2:15, 3:15 - The Shrewsbury Concert Band

From 11am
IN THE MAIN ARENA
11am - Croquet
3:15pm - Father's Day Races and
The Old Ladies Tea Race (Sponsored by
The Market Hall, Shrewsbury)

From 12pm
ON THE RIVER

Noon - Swimming the Severn with
Shrewsbury Masters

1pm - Shropshire Regatta
3:15pm - Coracle Races

From 11am
STREET THEATRE

Arena Field
11:15am and 12:30pm - The Gaiety Engine
2pm and 3:45pm - The Photographers

The Arch
11:30 and 1:30pm - A Temperance
Meeting, a scene from The Scottish Play
and a Parliamentary Hustings.
Followed by The Salopian Pedestrian Race

The Avenues
12:15, 2:15, 3:15pm - The Wheel House
Noon - 3pm - Fagin's Gang

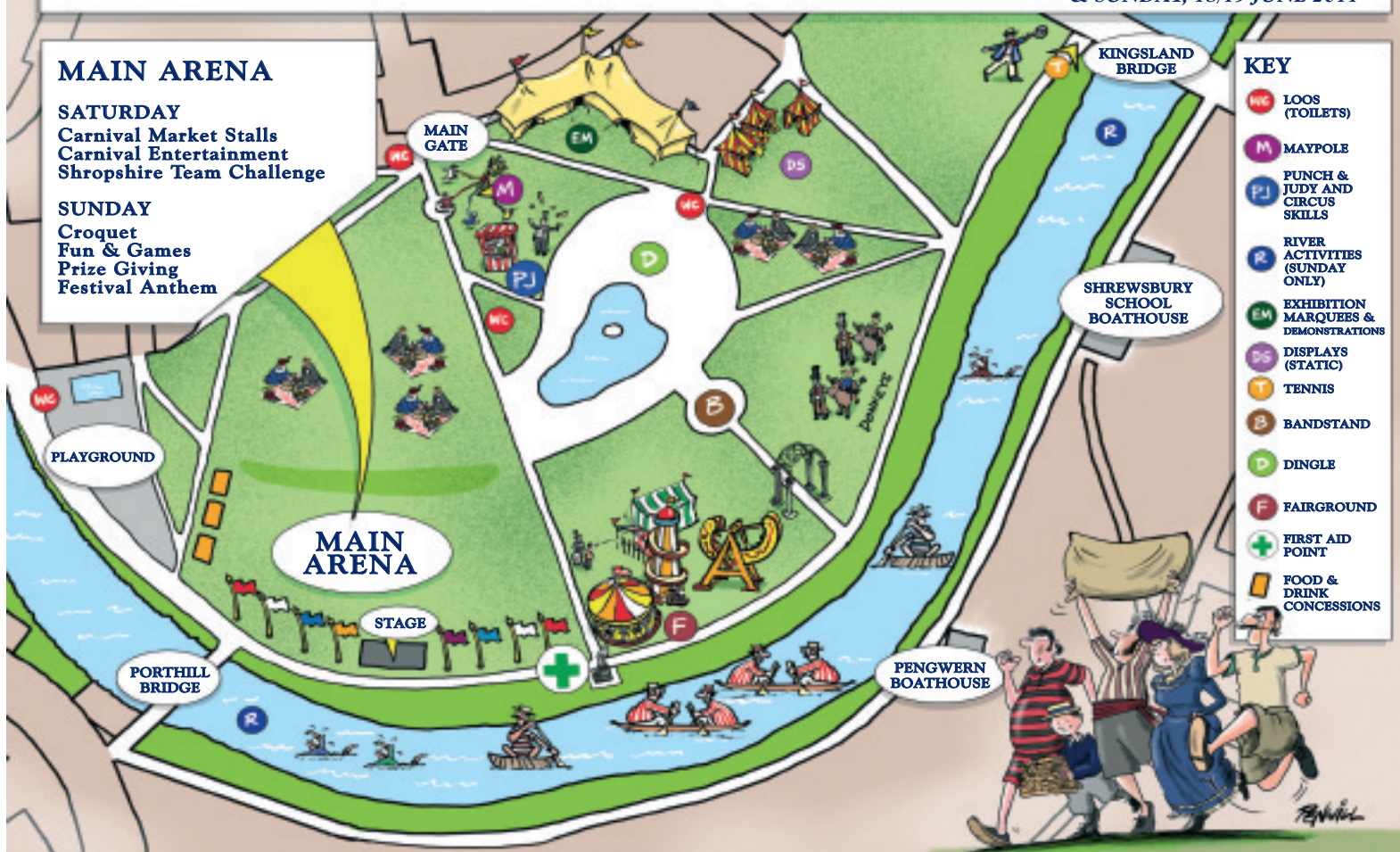
SHROPSHIRE OLYMPIAN FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL PLAN SATURDAY
& SUNDAY, 18/19 JUNE 2011

MAIN ARENA

SATURDAY
Carnival Market Stalls
Carnival Entertainment
Shropshire Team Challenge

SUNDAY
Croquet
Fun & Games
Prize Giving
Festival Anthem



star★extraTRAVEL Great British breaks

Each of the two-day breaks include return coach travel, hotel accommodation and admissions to the attractions, with the exception of the British Grand Prix, which is a day trip and includes return coach travel and a General Admission ticket.

The Houses of Parliament

From £119.⁹⁵

Two days departing June 26 and July 23

The Houses of Parliament are picture postcard famous. For centuries they have dominated the London riverside skyline, while hosting the major political ceremonies and decision making processes of modern Britain. If you have never seen them close up, then this two day break is just for you. Take a tour through this magnificent former palace and discover its beauty and national importance for yourself.

Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Buckingham Palace and Kensington Palace

From £129.⁹⁵

Two days departing August 14

Step across the threshold of royal life on this enticing break to London which includes visits to two of the most important and historic buildings in England; Buckingham Palace and Kensington Palace. Buckingham Palace serves as both the office and London residence of Her Majesty The Queen as well as the administrative headquarters of the Royal Household. It is one of the few working royal palaces in the world today.

Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Bletchley Park

The Secrets of War

From £95

Two days departing July 30

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Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

British Grand Prix

From £179.⁹⁵

Day trip departing July 10

The British Grand Prix is the oldest race in the Formula 1 calendar, reaching its 61st anniversary in 2011. Originally a Second World War airfield, Silverstone has hosted the race regularly since 1950, and every year since 1987. The circuit, even after major revisions in 1991, is famous for being one of the fastest and most challenging tracks on the F1 calendar, testing even the best driver's skills to the limit.

Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

For brochures call (01902) 319999 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm), email starextra@shropshirestar.com or go to www.shropshirestar.com/starextratavel (please include your name and address) or go to www.shropshirestar.com/starextratavel

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FEATURES

Tel: 01691 668094

Trip took birdwatching to dizzy new heights...

ALTHOUGH I wouldn't quite describe myself as an adrenaline junkie, I think I do fairly well under pressure.

I'm not scared of heights, I enjoy climbing and I'll try anything once. With that in mind, I thought my recent trip to the Wyre Forest and the Go Ape experience would be a walk in the park. Little did I know that I'd come back with a couple of superb wildlife encounters and two hands that are barely allowing me to type this column!

After signing our lives away, myself and my fiancée hauled ourselves up to the start of the course and set off into the treetops. By the time we'd scaled the third rope ladder and whizzed down the second zip wire, our muscles were aching and our nerves were somewhat shredded; so much for "not afraid of heights".

When one embarks on the Go Ape course, you have a fair amount to remember in a short space of time. There are three different safety ropes and a very particular way of clipping yourself in and letting go. The last thing you need when you're 50ft up in the canopy, is a distraction.

I'm sure most people don't get distracted from the task in hand, for the very reason that they are trying to prevent themselves plummeting to their deaths on the roots below, but if you're interested in gaining a rare glimpse of canopy-life high up in the forest, you'd better beware.

I had just reached the highest point and watched my partner zoom out of view down the zip-wire, when I heard a frantic chirping next to me. At first I was so used to gazing, neck bent, up at the crowns of the trees, that I hadn't appreciated that here, you were part of the crown and I was still looking up.

Soon a fluttering caught my attention; a fledgling bird, not three feet away, so close in fact that I could have reached out over and touched the little

ON THE WILD SIDE with Ben Waddams

thing – a young redstart. Redstarts are not particularly common in the UK. They are listed as an "amber species" and are in decline. They are immediately identifiable by their bright red tails and the males have a beautiful blue-grey back. I think they are also one of the prettiest birds here in Shropshire.

I stood and scrutinised this little gem for a few minutes before an instructor below asked if I was okay and had I forgotten how to clip myself in? Cheeky so and so.

On another high point in the trees, a nuthatch, apparently unconcerned with these strange harness "apes" entering their domain, paid me a visit. The nuthatch's call is about as stereotypical a bird sound as you'll ever hear. Tweet-tweet-tweet. However it isn't usually the call I listen for, but the scratching and tacking on dried wood that gives the bird's presence away.

So go on, go ape for our tree-top birds. Whether it's with binoculars or ropes, enjoy what the woods have to offer, but remember, if you go for the latter, make sure you clip yourself in.



Nuthatch Study – acrylic on board by Ben Waddams

It's show time... Ben and his new original artworks will be at the Fair in the Square, this Saturday 9am to 5pm. See you there!



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Warning over moves to phase out cheques

by Graham Breeze

AN OSWESTRY solicitor has called for the phasing out of cheques to be delayed until better alternatives are found.

Ian Goodwin, partner and head of the agriculture department at Lanyon Bowdler, said rural business relied heavily on cheques.

"Until a viable replacement is found, cheques are vital to the way rural businesses operate," he said.

"Many rural businesses cannot afford the cost of utilising electronic payment methods."

"There are alternatives being proposed, such as 'chips' to be used with sensors and the use of mobile phones, but these still fail to address access and signals problems in rural areas and also the ability of users – particularly where they fall into older age groups."

Transaction

The board of the UK Payments Council has set a date of October 2018 to aim for a complete phase-out of the use of cheques. There is a proviso that this can only happen if adequate alternatives are developed, but the decision has been criticised as being out of touch with certain sectors of the community.

"Although many stores no longer accept cheques, and in spite of them being the most expensive form of transaction for shops, many rural businesses rely on this method of payment," he added.

"Rural businesses represent a large number of small businesses where alternative methods of payment have not yet been implemented."

"The board has described the cheque as in 'terminal decline' and in setting the phase-out date hopes to encourage the advance of other payment types."

"However, in consulting with other bodies, it could well be that the Payments Council receives a surge of support for this more traditional method of payment."



Ian Goodwin, partner and head of agriculture department.

Free event on pensions

OSWESTRY chartered accountants Morris Cook will host a free seminar at the Wynnstey Hotel next Thursday.

The seminar aims to clarify recent important changes made to pension contributions.

Morris Cook's financial services specialist, Mark Evans, will present the key changes and take questions.

Mark will also reveal which current investment opportunities are giving an annual return of 10 per

cent and unveil a new death in service policy available to owner managers of limited companies.

"Owner managers of limited companies are often concerned that all the hard work they put into building their business can be lost with no benefit to their family if the worst should happen," said Mark.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Samantha Jones on 01978 860376 or e-mail samantha@morriscook.co.uk

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Mini packs a mighty punch as it delivers like never before

DRIVE TIME

with Graham Breeze



THE LATEST MINI is quite a surprise. Minis were never like this in my day – four doors and four wheel drive!

The Countryman is the latest model to hit the UK market and is the fourth member of the family following Hatch, Convertible and Clubman.

The Countryman is available in seven models, two of which offer ALL4 – MINI's new four wheel drive option – plus more space, more practicality and more versatility than any before.

My love affair with MINI began as a 17 year old, charging around in a hot-rod MINI van and went on to at least six company cars, but it was never like this.

Impressed

This is a car that makes people stand back. It's MINI as we have never known before and after a week behind the wheel I have to say I am very impressed.

Countryman takes the MINI story to a new level in the brand's 51-year heritage and will appeal to a completely new audience with prices starting at £16,000.

The demand for crossover vehicles has grown substantially in recent years with drivers demanding the best of both worlds with normal saloon-like driving responses as well as the added versatility of soft off-road ability and the interior flexibility to cope with all the activities that are such a huge part of modern life.

MINI Countryman arrives in a growing segment that presents an opportunity to attract buyers from a wide range of competitive cars.

The Countryman models pack in the driving



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thrills that put a grin on your face the way all MINIs do.

You could not mistake the new Countryman for anything other than a MINI yet it is distinctly different to any that have gone before. It

is 374mm longer than a MINI Hatch (at 4097mm), 106mm wider (at 1,789 mm) and 154mm taller (at 1561mm).

Countryman offers 190 litres more luggage capacity than a MINI Hatch with the seats up (a total of 350 litres) and 1,170 litres with the rear seats folded flat.

Inside the MINI Countryman is all about comfort, practicality and style. The higher seating position offers better visibility for the driver and passengers.

The interior is dominated by iconic MINI design characteristics such as comfortable yet grippy optional sports seats, the trademark central speedometer and neat, funky switch

packs. Driving is a pleasure with road holding to die for, although over-steer is possible until you adjust to the all-wheel drive system.

There's 0-62mph in 7.9secs and a blistering top speed of 130mph but I got nowhere near MINI's claim of a combined fuel consumption of 46mpg – closer to 40, but perhaps the attraction of speed was too great to ignore.

MINI used to be the cheap option but that is not the case anymore.

Prices start at £16,000 but the car on test had a basic price of £22,000 and with extras such as roof lining, leather interior, a Chili pack and heated seats totalling £6,390 you could pay over £28,000.

Nuts and bolts

MINI COUNTRYMAN ALL4

Cost: £16-28,000

Gears: 6 speed manual

Performance: 0-62mph in 7.9secs

Top Speed: 130mph

Combined fuel: 46mpg

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Impressive Vauxhall sales



Mike Oliver, centre, with Arthurs Vauxhall sales manager at Oswestry Dan Foskett, left, and Steve Hughes, Arthurs Vauxhall sales manager at Newtown, right

VAUXHALL IS the number one selling car in Shropshire and Mid Wales, a local motor dealership has been told.

The news was announced by Mike Oliver, Vauxhall Sales District Manager, during a visit to Arthurs Vauxhall of Oswestry and Newtown.

He said sales of Vauxhall cars in Shrop-

shire and Mid Wales were higher than those of any other manufacturer in the first five months of the year.

And Newtown's sales of Vauxhalls were currently above the national average.

Customer satisfaction scores for both Arthurs Vauxhall dealerships were also impressive, he added.

Lexus IS voted top car by motorists in new poll

MOTORISTS are growing more satisfied with their vehicles, according to a survey of more than 16,000 car owners.

And the biggest increase in satisfaction levels over the last 12 months has come in the car servicing category, the poll found.

The Lexus IS was the top-rated model and Lexus

also topped the manufacturers' satisfaction table in the survey by information services company JD Power and Associates and What Car? magazine.

In contrast, the Ford Ka was 108th and last in the model table, while Vauxhall was bottom of the 28-strong manufacturers' table.

Overall satisfaction levels averaged 79.4 per cent compared with 78.9 per cent in last year's survey. After the Lexus IS, the vehicle that owners were most satisfied with was the Honda Accord with the Lexus RX third.

Just above the Ford Ka at the bottom of the model table was the Kia Rio.

A wheel at each corner.. and one for the driver

THERE'S nothing like stalling a car at a set of traffic lights and watching a queue of impatient drivers wait for your next move to bring you back down to earth with a bump.

Thankfully I didn't have to lift a finger - I had a man jump out and turn the starting handle for me. This was a driving lesson with a difference.

When a car has three pedals, including reverse in the centre and the brake on the right plus a hand throttle, it's best to take expert advice before mixing it with more modern metal.

Coincidence

And that's exactly what I did before taking to the roads of Dagenham in a Model T. In case you didn't know, Ford in the UK is 100 years old. It's a happy coincidence that the firm has launched its all-new Focus 'world car' this year, and its arrival is a good opportunity to take the wheel of what started it off all those years ago.

The Model T's inception and subsequent lengthy production run is a story in itself.

What's just as interesting is how cars have both changed out of all recognition yet in many ways have stayed the same since Ford's original world car broke cover. To drive, the Model T appears to be simplicity itself. In reality, at least to a vintage car novice, things couldn't be more different. The lack of convention - the pedals are a prime example - prompts you to concentrate doubly hard, while the car's hand throttle and long-throw handbrake-cum-



One of the 89 Ford Model T cars which took part in a parade in Edinburgh to celebrate the centenary of the classic car.

gear selector demand a new-found level of dexterity when on the move.

Get it right, though, and the feeling of achievement is a special one. Get it wrong and you've most likely stalled the car or have found yourself travelling a bit too fast for that 20th-century speed hump. The car's brakes are, shall we say, modest by current standards.

After a brisk drive around the local area - including a

trio of stalls - it was back into a BMW 5 Series. A simple push of a button turned over its super-efficient six-cylinder turbo diesel motor. Contrast that with a few, firm turns on a starting handle and the need to keep your thumb out of the way in case the handle kicked back.

The experience was both exciting and humbling - 20 mph felt twice as fast thanks to the car's lack of roof and basic windscreen. It also gen-

erated a lot of respect for those early motorists. I was out on a sunny day, but imagine having to contend with wind, rain or worse on a regular basis. Even with the roof in place, the protection offered was minimal. No question, those early adopters were a hardy bunch.

It's true that we've never had it so good when it comes to the technology and refinement of modern cars. But when you examine something

like a Model T, you realise that little has changed. There's still a wheel at each corner and one for the driver to hold, drive to the engine is via a shaft and the fundamental technology behind the Model T's engine is closer to that 5 Series than BMW would like to admit.

I'm not demanding my own personal jetpack but I do hope the next 100 years sees a bigger leap in car design.

Iain Dooley

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for Octavia Hatch SE 1.6 MPI 102PS: Urban 29.4 (9.6), Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 39.8 (7.1). CO₂ emissions for Octavia Hatch SE 1.6 MPI 102PS 166g/km. For Octavia Estate 1.6 MPI 102PS: Urban 29.1 (9.7), Extra Urban 50.4 (5.6), Combined 39.2 (7.2). CO₂ emissions for Octavia Estate SE 1.6 MPI 102PS 168g/km.

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MINI COOPER 1.6
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FORD MONDEO 1.8 LX
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FORD FOCUS 1.8
LX TDCI
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FORD FOCUS 1.8
LX TDCI
52, SILVER, 5 DOOR, DIESEL, CD PLAYER, ALLOYS, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, IMMACULATE CONDITION, ONLY 60000 MILES



BUY THIS CAR, AND DRIVE AWAY TODAY FROM ONLY £15 PER WEEK*. STOCK REFERENCE: S1028

FORD FOCUS C
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08, BLUE, 5 DOOR, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, ALLOYS, LOW MILEAGE



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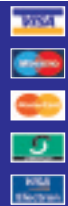
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WHEELS AND DEALS

THE average driver in the UK could save nearly £300 a year by using eco driving techniques, according to research by Continental Tyres.

A survey found that this adds up to more than £1 billion a year for motorists in Britain, or the equivalent of a shocking £18,000 over the driving lifetime of a motorist at today's fuel prices.

The research found that despite the fact that nearly 9 in 10 people are concerned about the rising cost of fuel, 40% of us admit to being completely clueless when it comes to eco driving.

Tim Bailey, driving expert at Continental Tyres, said: "As fuel costs continue to rise, affordable motoring is a big concern. "By making minor alterations to your driving technique and doing regular basic checks such as tyre pressure, motorists can save hundreds of pounds a year."

The survey also revealed that 50% of people fear that further fuel increases will force them off the roads even though they rely on driving to get to work.

Continental Tyres eco driving tips:

1. Check the pressure of your tyres regularly.
2. Get rid of unnecessary loads.
3. Make sure your tyres are properly



The Suzuki Swift

aligned to reduce fuel usage and avoid uneven wear.

4. Plan unfamiliar journeys to reduce the chance of getting lost and check the traffic news.

5. Always drive in the highest possible gear for the speed you are doing but do not let the engine labour.

6. Drive within the speed limit – the faster you go, the more fuel you use.

7. Drive with a little more distance to the vehicle ahead of you to avoid harsh braking.

8. Only turn on the air conditioning and heaters when really needed.

● Suzuki has added a low emissions 1.3-litre DDiS model to the recently launched Swift range.

Available from June 1, the Swift DDiS uses a new 75PS 1.3-litre engine, offers low emissions of 109g/km with combined fuel consumption of 67.3mpg, giving an estimated driving range of more than 500 miles.

An 8% improvement in fuel consumption produces 9% lower tailpipe emissions than the 1.3-litre diesel used in the previous Swift.

Emissions of 109g/km mean that the Swift DDiS costs just £20 in annual VED charges.

Prices start at £12,890 as a five-door model with SZ3 grade which includes seven airbags, air conditioning, 16-inch alloy wheels, USB port and heated electric



Hyundai's progress moved into a higher gear i30

door mirrors as standard equipment.

● Hyundai has sold five million vehicles in Europe since the first Hyundai Pony was imported in 1977.

The five millionth vehicle was an i30 which was launched in 2007 and just over 320,000 have been sold across the European dealer network.

Hyundai's sales momentum in Europe has increased steadily since 1977, culminating more recently in a significant rise in demand for the brand's cars.

For 27 consecutive months up to March 2011 Hyundai has outperformed the market sales trend in Europe.

It took until 1996 before Hyundai recorded its first million sales in Europe and the two millionth car was sold in 2001.

With a growing aware-

ness among European consumers and an expanding network of retailers covering a greater geographical area, Hyundai was able to hit the three million mark by 2005 and then four million in 2008.

It was in 2007 that the company's progress moved into a higher gear with the introduction of the i30 in Europe.

The i30 was soon followed by new models such as i10 and i20 as well as the ix20 compact MPV and ix35 SUV – all of which have Europe focused styling, powertrains and packaging.

A senior executive of Hyundai Motor Europe said: "Hitting five million sales is a wonderful achievement for Hyundai and it marks us out as a major player in what is the world's most competitive car market."



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PLACINGS

Oswestry League

Division one: Ceiriog Valley A 6 (160), Johnston A 4 (124), Church A 1 (152), Fleysys A 3 (122), Corwen A 5 (106), Llanyfyllin A 1 (108), Llanyfyllin A 2 (119), Chirk AAA A 8 (103), Oswestry A 9 (161), Llanyfyllin A 1 (81), Criffins A (151), Whittington A 3 (106).

Division two: Chirk AAA B 3 (126), Cymwyd A 1 (109), Johnston B 6 (143), Church B 5 (139), Ye Old Croft A 1 (143), Chirk B 5 (139), Johnston C 4 (148), Criffins B 3 (138).

Division three: Fleysys B 3 (130), Overton B 1 (150), Llanyfyllin A 5 (136), Plas Kynaston A 3 (132), Llanyfyllin B 10 (168), Llanyfyllin B 9 (86), Llanyfyllin B 9 (163), Whittington C 1 (102), Rhydolfa A 1 (143), Rhydolfa C 7 (146), Whittington C 4 (148), Criffins C 5 (138).

Division four: Ceiriog Valley A 6 (160), Ye Old Croft B 4 (138), Llanyfyllin B 3 (121), Cymwyd B 1 (151), Llanyfyllin D 6 (152), Plas Kynaston B 4 (148), Weston Rhyn D 7 (155), Overton C 3 (97), Whittington D 9 (165), Johnston E 1 (114).

Division five: Ellesmere A 10 (168), Whittington F 0 (71), Johnston F 8 (151), Llanyfyllin E 2 (107), Overton D 2 (109), Ruabon B 8 (148).

Division 6 (Veterans): Fleysys A 4 (163), Overton A 5 (161), Llanyfyllin 5 (162), Llanyfyllin A 1 (137), Llanyfyllin A 4 (154), Weston Rhyn A 5 (155), Rhydolfa 5 (159), Chirk AAA A 4 (149), Weston Rhyn B 6 (175), Llanyfyllin A 3 (125).

Division 8 (Veterans): Church Club A 7 (162), Cymwyd 2 (128), Overton B 4 (154), Church Club B 5 (158), Ye Old Croft 5 (173), Whittington 3 (151).

Division 1

P	W	L	Agg	Pts
Chirk AAA A	8	6	1+212	54
Criffins A	8	6	2+128	53
Johnston A	8	5	3+147	49
Corwen A	8	5	3+92	47
Whittington A	8	4	4+20	45
Ceiriog Valley A	8	3	5+73	43
Llanyfyllin A	8	4	4+31	38
Church A	8	4	4+70	37
Overton A	8	2	6+4	35
Fleysys A	8	2	5+163	27
Llanyfyllin B	8	2	6+229	27
Llanyfyllin A	8	2	6+135	25

Division 2

P	W	L	Agg	Pts
Weston Rhyn A	8	6	2+106	47
Church B	8	4	3+105	46
Criffins B	8	6	2+3	46
Ruabon A	8	3	3+77	45
Ye Old Croft A	8	3	3+40	43
Cymwyd A	8	3	3+29	42
George A	8	3	3+11	42
Llanyfyllin A	8	4	4+27	42
Black Lion	8	3	4+26	38
Johnston B	8	4	4+1	37
Johnston C	8	3	5+73	33
Chirk AAA B	8	0	8+210	19

Division 3

P	W	L	Agg	Pts
Plas Kynaston A	8	5	2+209	52
Overton B	8	5	3+130	52
Whittington B	8	5	3+203	51
Weston Rhyn C	8	6	2+122	48
Llanyfyllin B	8	5	3+156	46
Llanyfyllin A	8	4	3+7	41
Ceiriog Valley B	8	4	4+53	39
Overton A	8	4	4+23	39
Llanyfyllin B	8	3	5+80	33
Fleysys B	8	3	5+89	33
Whittington C	8	3	5+171	31
Llanyfyllin B	8	0	8+388	15

Division 4

P	W	L	Agg	Pts
Church C	8	6	2+174	51
Whittington E	8	5	3+125	49
Johnston D	8	3	3+100	48
Fox Lane	8	4	4+38	42
Llanyfyllin C	8	4	4+65	40
Criffins C	8	4	4+113	38
Llanyfyllin C	8	4	4+23	37
Weston Rhyn B	8	4	4+51	37
Ruabon B	8	3	4+1	36
Ceiriog Valley C	8	4	4+48	35
Corwen B	8	3	5+83	35
Church D	8	2	6+18	32

Division 5

P	W	L	Agg	Pts
Ellesmere A	8	6	0+388	53
Ruabon B	8	7	1+196	46
Syrilley B	8	5	1+126	34
Church E	8	4	1+121	34
Weston Rhyn E	8	2	4+27	31
Johnston F	8	2	5+28	28
Overton D	8	2	4+200	16
Whittington F	8	1	5+210	14
Llanyfyllin E	8	7	7+335	14

Division 6 (Veterans)

P	W	L	Agg	Pts
Ellesmere A	8	6	0+388	53
Ruabon B	8	7	1+196	46
Syrilley B	8	5	1+126	34
Church E	8	4	1+121	34
Weston Rhyn E	8	2	4+27	31
Johnston F	8	2	5+28	28
Overton D	8	2	4+200	16
Whittington F	8	1	5+210	14
Llanyfyllin E	8	7	7+335	14

Division 7

P	W	L	Agg	Pts
Ellesmere A	8	6	0+388	53
Ruabon B	8	7	1+196	46
Syrilley B	8	5	1+126	34
Church E	8	4	1+121	34
Weston Rhyn E	8	2	4+27	31
Johnston F	8	2	5+28	28
Overton D	8	2	4+200	16
Whittington F	8	1	5+210	14
Llanyfyllin E	8	7	7+335	14

Division 8

P	W	L	Agg	Pts
Ellesmere A	8	6	0+388	53
Ruabon B	8	7	1+196	46
Syrilley B	8	5	1+126	34
Church E	8	4	1+121	34
Weston Rhyn E	8	2	4+27	31
Johnston F	8	2	5+28	28
Overton D	8	2	4+200	16
Whittington F	8	1	5+210	14
Llanyfyllin E	8	7	7+335	14

Division 9

P	W	L	Agg	Pts
Ellesmere A	8	6	0+388	53
Ruabon B	8	7	1+196	46
Syrilley B	8	5	1+126	34
Church E	8	4	1+121	34
Weston Rhyn E	8	2	4+27	31
Johnston F	8	2	5+28	28
Overton D	8	2	4+200	16
Whittington F	8	1	5+210	14
Llanyfyllin E	8	7	7+335	14

Ifton back at home and chasing another victory

IFTON will look to cash in on home soil tomorrow night as they bid to close in on the leading pack – but skipper Steve Robinson is wary of the threat posed by a “wounded” Bowring.

Lying a creditable sixth spot in the Furrows Shropshire Premier Bowls League, Ifton go into the encounter in good spirits after last week’s 7-7 away draw at basement side Bylet.

By contrast, their visitors are reeling following a 11-3 home drubbing at the hands of St Georges.

“You’ve got to be happy with seven winners away from home, it was just a shame we couldn’t win the aggregate,” said Robinson.

“They’ve moved greens and we’ve never seen that green before so it was a good performance.

Cash in

“We now need to cash in at home, and keep delivering the performances we’re capable of.

“We’re looking for a big win tomorrow, a minimum of 10-4, but Bowring will be a wounded animal

after their defeat against St Georges, so we’ve got to be careful.”

With a testing trip to Chester Road the following week, Ifton will be out to fill their boots as they bid to consolidate their top six status.

Even after his side had a disappointing start to the campaign, Robinson felt his players had what it takes to climb the table.

They were made to work hard for points last Friday, and needed four winners on the back four to haul themselves back to lead 7-5 after

trailing 5-3 following the middle exchanges.

However, with Bylet having won the aggregate by +15, honours finished level at 7-7.

Game of the night saw Andy Hughes overturn a 17-8 deficit to defeat Craig Owen 21-19.

“It was a high quality match from both players throughout,” reflected Robinson.

Best winners of the night were Graham Rogers and Craig Griffiths who both prevailed to 11.

Newport	P	W	GW	Agg	Pts
Cheshire Road	9	7	2	288	84
St Georges	9	6	7	289	82
St Georges	9	6	6	258	79
St Georges	9	6	5	265	77
Wool Wood	9	5	5	126	69
Ifton	4	5	5	11	63
Sir John Bayley	9	5	5	36	63
Meole Brace	8	4	5	113	61
Bowring	9	5	5	40	60
Ford	9	3	4	128	53
Archibald Worth	9	2	4	272	47
Wern USC	9	2	4	296	46
Chills Crick	9	2	4	284	44
Bylet	8	3	3	270	41

Proud home record ended but Criffins still in promotion hunt

CRIFINS B were given a jolt after crashing to a rare home defeat in division two at the hands of Llanyfyllin A to lose ground on the leaders.

Starting the night in joint second spot, Criffins succumbed as their visitors won six games as well as the aggregate 45-128.

“It was our first defeat at home in two years,” said skipper Peter Griffiths, who was one of the two winners along with Gary Rogers. The pair both win to 16 on a difficult night for the squad.

“It was disappointing but we were going to lose at home sooner or later.

“There’s still a long way to go this season, we still haven’t reached the turnaround.”

It was Criffins’ third defeat of the season and leaves the division two table highly congested with a number of sides in the promotion picture.

In a top of the table showdown, Church B edged out Weston Rhyn A 6-4 thanks to a 14 shot aggregate.

Church’s Mervyn Weaver won to seven and his wife Cheryl was a 21-6 winner but Rhyn, trailing 3-1 from the front four, rallied with two winners in the back four.

“I was more disappointed with the weather than the result with the rain before the match favouring the visitors,” said Church captain Emrys Jones.

It’s all very tight in the table after George closed the gap on the leaders with an 8-2 derby win against Ye Old Croft A.

Whittington B, in third spot and one point behind the leading two sides, continue to go well after notching a crushing 9-1 triumph over visiting Ceiriog Valley B.

The hosts were too hot to handle with three single figure wins, the best seeing Paul Lindup prevail to four while Richard Beaman also won to five.

It was tight as Llanyfyllin A finished 5-5 at home against leaders Plas Kynaston A, after winning the aggregate by just one shot, 136-135. Gwyn Gwalchmai and Keith Davies both won 21-8 to share the sweep.

Whittington C remain one place off the foot of the table after crashing 9-1 (163-102) at Llannhaeadr B, their one win coming from Dave Pritchard who saw off Ron Loffman 21-16.

Tom Roberts took the copers for Llannhaeadr the copers for Llannhaeadr B, their one win coming from Dave Pritchard who saw off Ron Loffman 21-16.

Best of their losers was Dean Roberts who went down to 18 against Dave Edwards.

ON-SONG Church C stormed to points clear at the top of the Oswestry and District Bowling League division four after maintaining their fine form with a 10-0 whitewash of Criffins C.

Anthony Swannick led the way for the rampant hosts with a 21-11 verdict against Carl Danson as the high fliers racked up a 168-109 aggregate success in their sixth win of the season.

Closest of the losers for Criffins was Billy Jones who went down to 17.

BOWLS by John Bridgwater



Croftie's Jamie Waugh watches on as George's Mervyn Roberts gets the ball rolling in a match Waugh would eventually win 21-9



He's not throwing in that towel – George's Carleton Leonard in action against Croftie's Julie Edwards. Pictures: SIMON WILLIAMS

the table despite going so close in their 6-4 (agg 147-140) defeat at Llanyfyllin C.

The visitors produced several stirring efforts in a closely fought tussle, the best of which saw Marsh Howell emerge a 21-10 winner.

Best of the responses came from Neil Jones who ran out a 21-13 victor over Den Hughes.

Fox Lane are fourth after their 7-3 (agg 149-112) verdict against Johnston D, Mike Flanagan proving too hot to handle in his 21-3 success while Terry Coles was a 21-7 victor.

Church D continue to prop up



George's Frank Buckley in action against Ye Old Croftie's Bryan Parry during Tuesday night's match

Whittington stay in the title picture

A SPIRITED back four showing saw Whittington A keep the pressure on the Oswestry League division one pacemakers with an ultimately comfortable 8-2 win over visiting Overton A.

It has been close early on, with the home side almost finding themselves 3-1 down after the front four but for a fine 21-18 win for Julian Turner made it 2-2 at the half way stage.

But Whittington took charge of the back four, winning all four matches as they prevailed with a 42 shot aggregate.

Mervyn Davies took the coppers with a 21-6 success but performance of the night came in the back four when Mike Brunt staged a remarkable fightback to overturn a 17-10 deficit to run out a 21-17 winner.

“It was very tight early on and we could have been behind after the first four matches,” said captain Aled Davies.

“But in the end it was a good win for us which keeps us in the mix.”

Llanymynech A remain rooted to the foot of division one after going down 8-2 at Johnston.

Mark Kirkham won 21-19 and Dale Pritchard to 11, while Clive Roberts was unlucky to lose 21-20 after being 20 across, but the Wrexham hosts always held the upper hand.

Llannhaeadr A are also finding life tough just one place above the basement, and their plight was not helped as they suffered an 8-2 home loss to mid-table Church A.

with Derek Saunders winning 21-12.

Unbeaten Ellesmere A are setting a hot pace at the top of division six after making it six straight wins with a crushing 10-0 (168-71) success over Whittington F.

Ronald Walsh having a walkover and Tom Johnson winning 21-17.

Derek Trueman was the best of the losers after taking his match to 15 against Gwyneth Jones.

Basement side Llannhaeadr E went down 8-2 at Johnston F.

John H Davies (21-5) the pick of the winners.

PLACINGS

Tanners Bowling League

Division one: Burway 13 (248), Telport 1 (157), Crescent 10 (230), Ludlow Castle 4 (218), Ford 4 (182), Bickley 10 (226), George G (226), Castlefields 5 (201), Prince Hotel 9 (224), Harwood 5 (202), Reman 12 (243), Wern BC 2 (164).

Division two: Bricklayers 12 (236), Blighs Castle 2 (194), Meole Brace 3 (186), Green Arms 1 (229), Bickley 10 (226), Blighs & Castle 2 (179), Union 2 (201), Corbet Arms 5 (201), Wern USC 4 (174), Church Club 4 (213), New Harwood 10 (226), Whorlton & Brockton 4 (175), St Oswalds 11 (225), Oxen Valley 3 (177).

Division three: Bagley 6 (213), OSBSC 6 (220), Daydon Hill 8 (213), Meole Village 6 (204), Hadnall 10 (236), Bickley 10 (226), Whorlton 11 (228), Greenfields Social 3 (151).

4 (213); New Hanwood 10 (226), Worthen 10 (230),
 Brockton 4 (175); St Oswalds 11 (225), Oxonians 10 (219),
 Village 3 (177).

DIVISION 1

	P	W	GW	Agg	Pts
Castlefields	10	9	72 +265	98	98
Hanwood	10	6	75 +301	81	81
Burnley	7	7	74 +365	81	81
Telepost.	10	6	68 +89	76	76
Battlefield	9	4	60 +137	68	68
Pontesbury	9	4	49 -21	57	57
Reman	8	3	49 -17	50	50
Ford	9	4	47 -85	50	50
Prince Hotel	9	4	47 -124	50	50
George	5	4	44 -180	54	54
Crescent	9	4	46 -215	54	54
Ludlow Castle	9	3	46 -159	54	54



Cock B Forden celebrate their Hughes Lewis cup final victory



All smile and it's no wonder – Talbot D bagged a hatful of trophies in the season



Division three player of the year John Harris

Plenty to celebrate for Welshpool aces at end of season presentation evening



ABOVE: Lion Westbury are well rewarded for the Main Cup win as they pick up the trophy along with individual honours, while RIGHT, the winners of division three Pheasant B celebrate their victory, but they could only finish as runner-up in the league's Brooks Cup showpiece.



THE WELSHPOOL Pool League season concluded with a presentation evening to reward a number of clubs for their efforts across an exciting and enthralling campaign.

The Angel A took the division one title while Castle Boys were division two champions, only just missing out on a double when were lost the Brooks Cup division two final to Talbot D.

In division three Pheasant B took top spot as well as runners-up in the Brooks Cup third division.

The Lion Westbury were deserved 5-2 winners over the Oak A in the main cup final after beating the Punchbowl A 5-2 in the semis. The Oak were 5-0 winners over the Pheasant Nomads in their semi-final. The Lion were also runners up in Division one.

With one of the performances of the finals night, the Cock Brockton shrugged off the underdog tag to beat the Oak A 5-4 in the Brooks division one final.

Captain Graham Hamer led by example with 2/2 against Wayne Smith, including the all important captain's pick decider.

Meanwhile The Talbot D had a feast of trophies to collect. Not only did they beat Cobra Meifod in the Consolation Cup final, but also won the Brooks Division two cup beating Castle Boys 5-4.

The only dent in their day came in the Hughes Lewis final, where a brilliant Cock B Forden performance saw them come runners up in that one.

A brilliant singles final saw Glyn Davies (Oak) edge out Alan Price (Nomads) 4-3. Price played a top semi-final for a surprising 3-0 verdict over Steve Richards, and Davies came from behind to win 3-2 against Rod Edwards.

Price had more to celebrate with his team mates, as the Pheasant Nomads recorded a fine 6-2 win over the Cock A Forden in the Andrew's Cup.

There were also a host of individual winners on the night.



Brooks Cup division three winners were the Horseshoe at Arddleen



Talbot D were also the winners of this year's Consolation Cup final



Pool league representative Steve Sherlock presents singles winner Glyn Davies with his trophy



Cock Brockton celebrate their victory in the Brooks Cup division one final



Doubles winners Johnny Jerman and Alan Jones



Division one's player of the year Justin Williams

PLACINGS

Birmingham League

DIVISION 3					
P	W	L	Bat	Bowl	Pts
Barnards Green	6	1	0	0	12
Oswestry	6	2	1	7	103
Brewwood	6	3	0	4	5
Telford	6	3	0	2	6
Lliffelid	6	1	1	6	73
Penn	6	1	1	4	9
Stokeley	6	1	1	11	62
Wedgebury	6	1	0	8	58
Handsworth	6	0	1	7	11
Stokeley	6	0	1	10	46
St Georges	6	0	0	12	34
Sutton Coldfield	6	0	0	8	27

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DIVISION 2					
P	W	L	Bat	Bowl	Pts
Lliffelid	6	4	0	5	92
Smethurst	6	1	2	4	5
Oswestry	6	0	2	7	12
Forcett	6	0	1	7	4
Penn	6	0	2	6	9
St Georges	6	0	2	6	9
Sutton Coldfield	6	0	1	8	4
Brewwood	6	0	2	5	59
Acton Manor	6	0	1	8	9
Whitchurch	6	0	1	5	8
Wedgebury	6	0	1	4	37
Cannock	6	0	0	7	14

FBC Manby Bowler

Shropshire League

DIVISION 1					
P	W	L	A	Pts	
Worcester	6	4	0	0	116
Knockin	6	3	0	0	111
Alberbury	6	4	1	0	108
Frankton	6	3	0	0	93
Lliffelid	6	2	2	0	88
Cound	6	2	3	0	83
Montgomery	6	1	2	0	83
Forton	6	2	2	1	71
Welshpool	6	1	2	1	62
Condover	6	1	3	0	58
Pontesbury	6	0	2	0	51
Llanidloes	6	0	4	0	29

DIVISION 2

P	W	L	A	Pts
Bishop Castle	6	3	2	90
Market Drayton	6	3	0	84
Iscoyd Fenns	6	3	2	80
Wellington III	6	3	0	87
Lliffelid	6	3	2	83
Willy	6	2	1	82
Ellesmere	6	3	2	79
Tiberton	6	1	3	61
Acton Reynald	6	2	3	60
Cae Glas	6	1	3	55
Church Stretton	6	1	3	52
Frankton	6	1	3	47

DIVISION 3

P	W	L	A	Pts
Whittington	6	0	0	106
Corvedale	6	4	1	104
Beacon	6	2	1	91
Whiston Aston	6	2	0	91
Cound II	6	2	1	83
Shifnal III	6	1	1	83
Chelmarsh	6	1	1	78
Pontesbury II	6	0	2	62
Tryall	6	1	3	54
Tiberton	6	1	3	50
St Georges III	6	0	4	51
Whitchurch III	6	0	5	37
Shrewsbury III	6	0	1	34

DIVISION 4

P	W	L	A	Pts
Grove	6	5	1	0
Oswestry III	6	3	1	101
Wellington IV	6	3	0	101
Worcester II	6	4	2	100
Montgomery I	6	2	1	80
Hodnet	6	3	1	73
Calverhall	6	1	3	73
Knockin II	6	2	1	68
Church Aston	6	2	3	66
Alberbury II	6	1	3	65
Harcourt	6	1	3	61
Hinstock	6	0	6	23

DIVISION 5

P	W	L	A	Pts
Brighthelm	6	5	0	105
Newport III	6	4	1	104
Guildfield	6	3	1	84
Market Drayton II	6	3	1	83
Frankton II	6	2	2	75
Hales	6	2	2	70
Overton	6	1	2	67
Welshpool II	6	0	2	63
Quatt	6	1	3	59
Condover II	6	0	2	58
Acton Reynald II	6	1	3	43
Ludlow	6	0	4	36

DIVISION 6

P	W	L	A	Pts
Shifnal IV	6	3	1	104
Wern	6	3	1	101
Cae Glas II	6	4	1	93
Forton II	6	2	0	84
Preses	6	1	1	91
Worfield III	6	3	2	80
Tiberton II	6	1	3	65
Welshpool III	6	1	0	64
Much Wenlock III	6	1	0	41
Blaugrove II	6	0	2	32
Bomere Heath III	6	0	2	31
St Georges IV	6	0	4	24

DIVISION 7

P	W	L	A	Pts
Beacon II	6	3	0	106
Chelmarsh	6	3	1	101
Grove II	6	4	1	92
Corvedale II	6	2	2	89
Knockin III	6	2	0	88
Quatt III	6	2	0	80
Willy II	6	2	1	74
Lliffelid II	6	2	1	63
Macleay II	6	2	1	63
Ellesmere II	6	1	3	61
Whitchurch II	6	1	3	61
Allocton	6	2	3	60
Wellington V	6	0	3	52
Whiston Aston II	6	0	2	52
Alberbury III	6	1	3	46
Pontesbury III	6	1	2	35
Llanidloes II	6	0	2	32
Shrewsbury IV	6	0	5	13

DIVISION 8

P	W	L	A	Pts
Beacon III	6	3	0	106
Chelmarsh III	6	3	1	101
Grove III	6	4	1	92
Corvedale III	6	2	2	89
Knockin IV	6	2	0	88
Quatt IV	6	2	0	80
Willy III	6	2	1	74
Lliffelid III	6	2	1	63
Macleay III	6	2	1	63
Ellesmere III	6	1	3	61
Whitchurch III	6	1	3	61
Allocton II	6	2	3	60
Wellington VI	6	0	3	52
Whiston Aston III	6	0	2	52
Alberbury IV	6	1	3	46
Pontesbury IV	6	1	2	35
Llanidloes III	6	0	5	13

DIVISION 9

P	W	L	A	Pts
Beacon IV	6	3	0	106
Chelmarsh IV	6	3	1	101
Grove IV	6	4	1	92
Corvedale IV	6	2	2	89
Knockin V	6	2	0	88
Quatt V	6	2	0	80
Willy IV	6	2	1	74
Lliffelid IV	6	2	1	63
Macleay IV	6	2	1	63
Ellesmere IV	6	1	3	61
Whitchurch IV	6	1	3	61
Allocton III	6	2	3	60
Wellington VII	6	0	3	52
Whiston Aston IV	6	0	2	52
Alberbury V	6	1	3	46
Pontesbury V	6	1	2	35
Llanidloes IV	6	0	5	13

DIVISION 10

P	W	L	A	Pts
Beacon V	6	3	0	106
Chelmarsh V	6	3	1	101
Grove V	6	4	1	92
Corvedale V	6	2	2	89
Knockin VI	6	2	0	88
Quatt VI	6	2	0	80
Willy V	6	2	1	74
Lliffelid V	6	2	1	63
Macleay V	6	2	1	63
Ellesmere V	6	1	3	61
Whitchurch V	6	1	3	61
Allocton IV	6	2	3	60
Wellington VIII	6	0	3	52
Whiston Aston V	6	0	2	52
Alberbury VI	6	1	3	46
Pontesbury VI	6	1	2	35
Llanidloes V	6	0	5	13

DIVISION 11

P	W	L	A	Pts
Beacon VI	6	3	0	106
Chelmarsh VI	6	3	1	101
Grove VI	6	4	1	92
Corvedale VI	6	2	2	89
Knockin VII	6	2	0	88
Quatt VII	6	2	0	80
Willy VI	6	2	1	74
Lliffelid VI	6	2	1	63
Macleay VI	6	2	1	63
Ellesmere VI	6	1	3	61
Whitchurch VI	6	1	3	61
Allocton V	6	2	3	60
Wellington IX	6	0	3	52
Whiston Aston VI	6	0	2	52
Alberbury VII	6	1	3	46
Pontesbury VII	6	1	2	35
Llanidloes VI	6	0	5	13

DIVISION 12

P	W	L	A	Pts
Beacon VII	6	3	0	106
Chelmarsh VII	6	3	1	101
Grove VII	6	4	1	92
Corvedale VII	6	2	2	89
Knockin VIII	6	2	0	88
Quatt VIII	6	2	0	80
Willy VII	6	2	1	74
Lliffelid VII	6	2	1	63
Macleay VII	6	2	1	63
Ellesmere VII	6	1	3	61
Whitchurch VII	6	1	3	61
Allocton VI	6	2	3	60
Wellington X	6	0	3	52
Whiston Aston VII	6	0	2	52
Alberbury VIII	6	1	3	46
Pontesbury VIII	6	1	2	35
Llanidloes VII	6	0	5	13

Frankton's youngsters come up just short

Frankton IIs, 166 all out, (6pts) lost to Acton Reynald, 167 for 4, (20pts) by six wickets

FRANKTON IIs lost this game at Acton Reynald in division two and were disappointed with the result with spirits being high after an against the odds win last week.

Frankton were put into bat on what looked was going to be a hard track to score runs on.

Alex Owen and Will Symon set a good pace to Frankton's total and both were looking comfortable at the crease before Owen fell first, trapped LBW to an in-swinging ball.

Symon battled well throughout his knock and had three partners before finally falling himself for 42 in the

28th over playing a big shot to deep midwicket which wasn't quite big enough and saw him caught five yards inside the boundary.

Small contributions from the middle order meant Frankton were only looking at a modest total.

M.Lammie produced another fine batting display, again showing his skill with the bat punishing any bad balls with great intent.

When Lammie finally fell for 38 so did the rest of Frankton's lower order batsman and the innings ended on 166.

Good bowling spells for Kevin Harrison and Paul Garry, who took four wickets, proved vital in restricting Frankton to their total.

Acton Reynald's reply started well until Will James claimed the first of his five victims hitting dangerous opener Dave Galbraith on the pads in front of the stumps.

Suddenly 166 looked a big total to chase on a track that was deteriorating quickly.

Aggressive

But the game was sealed when Ian Fox and Adie Hudson came to the crease together – both batting aggressively although chances were being given.

Just when the two looked like they were going all the way a second spell from James saw him rip up Hudson for 46.

And the paceman took three more batsman in quick succession to re-ignite Frankton hopes as a shock suddenly looked on the cards.

However, it wasn't to be as Fox kept a steady head to seal the win with a fine knock 67/no.

Frankton's young side, with an average age of just 20, were punished by the more experienced Acton (average age of 43) for not putting enough runs on the board.

Although this was not taking anything away from Acton's batsmen who played a patient and responsible innings.

Will James finished with a career best 5-36 from 12 overs.

Rivals share the spoils as contest ends in a draw

Guildfield 208 all out, (15pts) drew with Frankton III, 173 for 7, (11pts)

THESE two sides were promoted into division five together last season and the Welshmen effectively cost Frankton the title when they took the honours in the last game of the season to complete a double over their neighbours from just over the border.

On Saturday, the visitors elected to bat first on a fast Fenn's Bank wicket. Early successes were balanced by some

wayward bowling and after five overs, the Guildfield score stood on an incongruous 43-3, with dangersmen Griffiths and Brown already back in the pavilion.

The Guils middle order responded well, as David Harris (22), Matthew Jones (46), Tom Kneale (31) and George Ryan (24, including his first ever sixes) built the score up to 208 all out from 35.4 overs.

Tan Lewellyn (4-69 from 13 overs), Ashley Wynn (4-17) and Scott Evans (2-55) were the wicket takers for Frankton.

In reply Frankton also lost early wickets, but Elwyn Jones and Will Lewis slowly brought the innings around, and set up a frantic run chase with 100 needed from the last 15 overs with eight wickets in hand.

Crucially at that point there was a break for rain, and as soon as play resumed, Lewis was out for 21, and three other wickets fell in rapid succession to leave the innings in disarray.

Jones and Ashley Wynn ensured that there was no further breakthrough until Wynn was unluckily run out for 10 by a superb piece of fielding from Kneale, throwing the stumps down from a prone position.

By now a win was out of the question, but Jones continued to look for bonus points as he closed on 80/no, and the innings on 173-7.

Dan Brown was Guildfield's best bowler taking 3-49 in an evenly-matched contest.

Skipper Robinson pleased with new found Oswestry resilience

MARK ROBINSON produced a captain's knock as Oswestry's cricketers staged a remarkable fightback against Studley at Morda Road to retain second place in division three of the Birmingham League.

Having gained back-to-back victories against Penn and Handsworth over the Bank Holiday weekend, the border men went into their home clash full of confidence.

But when Robinson came to the wicket at

SPORT

e-mail: sport@oswestrychronicle.co.uk 01691 668094

Firsts earn vital draw as seconds come so close

Knockin & Kinnerley, 169 for 9, (12pts) drew with Lilleshall, 210 all out (17pts)

LILLESBALL travelled to Knockin in this Shropshire League division one clash looking to avenge their league cup defeat earlier in the season.

With the ground looking a picture and wicket to match Lilleshall skipper Will Askin won the toss and decided to make first use.

Lilleshall got off to a steady start, looking to keep wickets to play to provide a launch-pad in the final overs, however with regular wickets falling throughout the innings Knockin kept the visitors in check.

Ed Keenan made a useful 29 before skipping Jamie Jagger's first ball in first team cricket for almost

two years to be well caught by Higginson.

Paul Bainbridge at four was the player to hold the middle of the innings together making 45 in the process and with a flourish from young number nine Jack Pierce – who played very well for 46 – Lilleshall amassed 210 before being bowled out in the 49th over.

For Knockin, Ben Wixey again bowled well to take 4-51 and Richard Boyes 2-34.

Knockin felt the total was gettable and just below par and were confident going out to bat.

However in the space of the first five overs both Knockin openers were back in the hut with the score on just four. That turned into 28-4 as things went from bad to worse and when Darlington and Higginson departed to leave the score on

57-6 things were looking grim for the hosts.

However, Wixey and young Ash Varley constructed an invaluable partnership of 81 for the eighth wicket and scored 50no and 34 respectively before Varley fell in the 46th over.

With five overs left Dan Jones went first ball caught behind to the impressive Askin and with Jamie Jagger striding to the crease Lilleshall sniffed victory once again.

But Jagger and Wixey held firm in the face of some good bowling to see out for the draw, a result which both teams would agree was deserved. For Lilleshall Bicknell bowled very well to return with figures of 5-32.

Next week Knockin travel to local rivals Alberbury at the Pecknall Farm ground.

Knockin & Kinnerley IIs, 242 all out, (9pts) lost to Grove, 272 for 9, (23pts) by 30 runs.

This was an exciting game, played in the right spirit.

Knockin skipper Ross Langley won the toss and chose to bat second on the artificial wicket.

The Grove got up to a shaky start with Keith Sambrook out in the first over for a duck.

Things continued to go the visitors' way until Danny Taylor and Nick Benwell got together for a big partnership resulting in a 55 for Benwell before he was bowled by Marcus Williams.

Taylor fell for 95 – caught by Gallimore at long on. The Grove tail had some fight as Dave Morrey hit a tidy 28.

The Knockin reply started in a similar style to that of the Grove,

as Ed Nicholas was caught behind early.

This brought Mark Blount to the crease, who looked to be setting himself up well, while Bradbury from the other end seized the initiative and with help from the rain, knocked the shine off the ball.

Blount just looked to have got in when he was bowled by Sanbrook but James Evans blasted a quick 31 with 20 coming off a particularly explosive Dave Morrey over.

Jack Jones held his end for 48, and Ross Langley added 20 before the man with no form, Charles Brown scored an elegant 68.

Jules Gallimore and Dan Evans made a valiant effort to win the game, both out for 10, before Alan Hammond held on bravely with Marcus Williams, before Williams fell with only three balls remaining.

Welshpool hold on for draw despite Frankton's firepower

WELSHPOOL found themselves on the wrong end of a batting onslaught as Frankton went for their shots in their FBC Manby Bowlder Shropshire League division one clash.

But the Mid Wales men stuck to their guns to emerge with a losing draw against the league's early challengers, responding with 169-8 after the hosts had earlier prospered to the tune of 274 in 45 overs with some fine strokeplay.

Pool could take heart from a resilient showing in face of adversity, with the home openers rattling up 134 runs for the first wicket before a massive 70 runs came in the last five overs to swell the total.

After electing to field, the visiting bowlers and fielders were soon under the cosh with the Frankton openers having 70 on the board from the first 10 overs.

There was some respite late in the innings when slow bowlers Joe Birch and Bob Anderson managed to curb the run rate.

However, hopes of pegging Frankton back to a more modest score was shattered in the last five overs when a further 70 runs were plundered.

Instrumental

The coup de gras at the end of the innings was delivered by Tom Wilkie who scored 59 not out in rapid time, hitting four sixes and a four in the last over alone.

Instrumental in inflicting the damage were the Frankton openers Ian Whitticase and Nakala De Silva who scored a quickfire 70 and 69 respectively in a 134-run first wicket stand to set the scene for a run feast.

In contrast to Frankton, the Welshpool batters did not find it easy to dominate the bowling, the exception being Joe Birch who was caught for 69.

Despite wickets falling regularly, the visitors never looked like losing the game and they were able to hold on to the end, finishing on 169-8.

It was a memorable day for Frankton's Wilkie who added to his batting score by returning three wickets for 45 runs.

Seconds left to rue batting

Welshpool IIs 101 all out, lost to Bridgnorth, 102 for 2, by eight wickets

IT WAS a disappointing day for Welshpool against Bridgnorth at Maesdyre where the home team was only able to post 101 runs after being put into bat.

Top scorer for Welshpool was veteran Dale Evans (29) only receiving support from Mathew Knight (20) and Nick Davies (16).

It was an impressive day though for Bridgnorth opening bowler, Liam Brown, who finished with 4-31 runs from his 10 overs.

In reply, Bridgnorth had little difficulty knocking off the runs and they reached the total with overs to spare, losing only two wickets along the way.

Top scorers in the Bridgnorth victory were Ian Gough on 55 not out and Andrew Mooney on 27 not out.

Damon Preston and Mat McWhinnie took the two wickets for Welshpool as the bowlers were made to toil by the in-form Bridgnorth batsmen.



Ellesmere Cricket Club. Back, from left, James Evans, Alex Duncan, Matthew Lewis, Tom Davies, Ashley Thomas and Paul Mochel. Front, Aaron Clegg, Leroy Thomas, captain Adam Huxley, John Mooney and Lawrence Ashley.

Picture: PETER FLEMMICH

Welshpool earn draw

Welshpool IIs, 161 for 5, drew with Tibberton, 228 for 3

DESPITE losing their opening batsman for with just one run on the board visitors Tibberton posted an impressive total of 228 for 3 in 40 overs.

The Welshpool reply was creditable but they never looked like threatening the target score, drawing the match and finishing on 161 for 5.

Top scorers for Welshpool were Alan Williams (36no) Dave Whitehouse (29) and Keiran Evans (25) on a day where bat dominated ball.

Batting collapse costs Ellesmere any chance

ELLESMERE suffered a disastrous batting display as they were comfortably beaten by Market Drayton in division two.

The home side were skittled out for just 69 with only Tom Davies (29) offering any resistance.

In reply Drayton encountered few problems on their way to a routine six wicket victory.

Graham Beardmore bowled well for Ellesmere to finish with 3-23 from seven overs.

Whittington played their part in a thrilling con-

teset, with Shifnal IIs in division five.

Chasing 218 to win the game, Whittington came close to both victory and defeat, as they closed on 214-8.

Garth Morris and Julian Plunkett both made 44 for Whittington while Matthew Mackenzie picked up four wickets as the match ended in a draw.

Ellesmere IIs also picked up a draw in division seven. After making 200-9 (Mark Jeffries 50) Ellesmere restricted Corvedale to 194-8 with Fraser Duncan (3-28) the pick of the bowlers.

Knockin return to winning ways

Knockin & Kinnerley IIs, 189 for 5, (20pts) beat Alscott IIs, 185 all out, by five wickets

KNOCKIN & Kinnerley IIs returned to winning ways with a comfortable five wicket win over Alscott IIs.

Alscott were put into bat and got off to a flying start thanks to Stuart Berry (50) and Kieron Berry (24). They reached 70 off only 12 overs.

Knockin & Kinnerley managed to peg them back thanks to some persistent bowling from Barry Hawkin (3-78) who finally accounted for both the Alscott openers.

Wickets then fell at regular intervals with only Ian Watson (52no) putting up any resistance.

A fine spell of leg spin bowling by young Sam Dapling (4-24) and some line and length sense bowling from James Davies (2-10) saw Alscott dismissed for 185 in the 32nd over.

Knockin got off to an equally quick start thanks to Dave Smith (39) and Ben Wilson (29).

Once they fell to Stuart McKinnon (3-64) the baton was taken up by Nigel Leadbeater (24) and young Robin Hardman (10).

There was a slight wobble when they were both dismissed but Barry Hawkin (11no) and a hard hitting 30 by Richard Jones saw Knockin & Kinnerley home in the 31st over.

Sailing crew have plenty to be proud of

SHROPSHIRE Sailing Club's youngsters did themselves proud at the RS Feva National Championships held at Abersoch.

Feva veterans Rob Morris and George Shelley used their combined weight to maximum advantage on the first day, as 22 knot winds and rolling swell made life difficult for many during the qualifying races.

The pair recorded two straight wins in three races, to end the day second out of 103 boats. Becca Morris and crew Islay Grant (Emsworth Slipper SC) were 13th, Tom Dutton and Dom Lashbrook (Oakham School) 71st and Francis Baldwin and Grace Dutton 77th.

Ed Shelley and helm Finbar Preston (Emsworth SC) had a difficult day with the heavy conditions taking their toll on Preston, who was still recovering from a broken arm six weeks before. In pain, he was unable to compete on the second day.

On day two, the top half of boats were put into the gold fleet, with the remainder competing in the silver fleet.

Lighter winds made life harder for the Morris Shelley pairing and they fell back a little to fourth after six races, while Morris and Grant ended the day in 39th.

In the silver fleet Dutton and Lashbrook also fell back, but the club's most improved performance of the day came from Baldwin and Dutton, who bounced back from a 40th

in the first race after a great first heat, to record a 21st and 28th and end the day in 29th.

On the final day, with three more races to fit in, sailors were pushing hard at the start line and the race officers hoisted the black flag, meaning disqualification for any boat over the start line.

At least four gold fleet boats were kicked out of the second race, while the race officer took a dim view of a very aggressive start by Morris and Shelley, obliging the pair to withdraw from the final race.

Morris and Grant kept plugging away, while in the silver fleet Dutton and Lashbrook (30, 26, 39) did their best to haul in Baldwin and Dutton (38, 41, 29).

Challenging Shropshire SC member Paul Dutton said: "It was the first time some of them had ever taken part in a championships like this and they did really well."

"When you've learned to sail on a small, sheltered lake like White Sea, to be racing in waves and strong winds two miles offshore is pretty challenging."

Ed Shelley, who sailed the second day with a different helm due to Preston's injury, was reunited with his regular helm on the final day, the pair were out of medal contention, they were allowed to continue racing.

At Whitmore on Sunday, Jim Shipp dominated proceedings in light winds, winning all five of the day's races at Shropshire Sailing Club.

Martin Parry, also in a Solo, came second in the first race, while George Shelley (Shropshire SC) 62pts; 46. Becca Morris (Shropshire SC) 45, Islay Grant (Emsworth Slipper SC) 40, Francis Baldwin (Emsworth SC) & Ed Shelley (Shropshire SC) 24pts.

Silver Fleet: 1. Tom Joesbury & Ollie Sellars (Burdworth SC) 29pts; 2. Francis Baldwin & Grace Dutton (Shropshire SC) 21pts; 3. Tom Dutton (Shropshire SC) & Dom Lashbrook (Oakham School) 22pts.

Sunday 1.15pm Long Distance A Race 12 (handicap): 1 Jim Shipp, 2 Martin Parry, 3 Brian Johnson, 4 Colin Smith & Ollie Smith, 5 Charlotte Norris & Stuart Norris. Top junior, Charlotte Norris.

1.15pm Early Summer Series 13 (pursuit): 1 Jim Shipp, 2 Martin Parry, 3 Chris Truman, 4 Charlotte Norris & Stuart Norris, 5 Lottie Rapon. Top junior, Charlotte Norris.

2pm Early Summer Series 14 (handicap): 1 Jim Shipp, 2 Martin Parry, 3 Brian Johnson, 4 Brian Johnson, 5 Rachel Thompson & Basil Thompson.

3.15pm Early Summer Series 15 (pursuit) 1 Jim Shipp, 2 Brian Johnson, 3 Chris Truman, 4 Rachel Thompson & Basil Thompson, 5 Mike Davy. Top junior, Lottie Rapon.

4pm Early Summer Series 16 (handicap): 1 Jim Shipp, 2 Brian Johnson, 3 Crystal Truman, 4 Mike Davy, 5 Rachel Thompson & Basil Thompson. Top junior, Crystal Truman.

Sam makes debut



Off to a tee – home favourite Sam Litchfield tees off for Shropshire & Herefordshire in their match against Staffordshire at Oswestry Golf Club. But Litchfield was on the losing side as S&H suffered a narrow 8-7 defeat.

Picture: SIMON WILLIAMS

Around the greens

LLANYMYNECH

Invitation Open: 1 Dave & Chris Caldwell 45pts*, 2 Ed Roberts & G Westman 45*, 3 Mark Ayling & Joe Poole 45. Best Gross: Basil Griffiths & Dave Probert 67.

OSWESTRY

EWGA Medal & Ritchie Salver: 1 Carol Johnson 88-20=68, 2 Janet Williams 88-19=69, 3 Margaret Ratcliffe 88-13=70. Bronze Division: 1 Betty Collins 95-28=67, 2 Dorothy Savage 96-25=71*, 3 Nesta Orrells 98-27=71. Upper Bronze: 1 Patricia Hughes 106-35=71, 2 Merle Sadler 103-31=72, 3 Brenda Wilson 105-32=73.

AM: 1 Michelle Smith, Steph Edwards, Emma Szymura, Julie Bourne (Wychwood Park) 74 points.

Mixed: 1 Bill Ferries, Jean Ferries, Ryan Hartley, Ruth Lea 86 pts (Oswestry), 2 Kath Jones, Di Hall, Roy Jones, John Janicki 83 pts (Oswestry).

Men: 1 Dr Mike Elder, Tommy Thompson, John

Hewett, Dave Wase 83pts (Oswestry), 2 Antony McAllister, Matt Nicholas, Phil Jones, Kevin Todd 82 pts* (Clays). Tedmore Bowl: Medal Qualifying round. Leading eight go forward to match-play competition.

1 Martin Jones 72-5=67, 2 Rob Harding 78-10=68*, 3 Anthony Harrison 82-14=68*, 4 Steve Webb 78-10=68*, 5 David Hughes (Whit) 90-22=68, 6 Darryl Hopton 88-19=69*, 7 Neil Jones 88-11=69*, 8 Endaf Owens 80-11=69*.

WELSHPOOL

Swindle Stableford: 1 Dean Bowen 46pts, 2 Martin Mitten 38pts, 3 Alan Brooks 37pts.

Peter Morris Memorial Competition: 1 Sam Prince 43pts, 2 Haydyn Wright 39pts, 3 Gary Lafalin 38pts.

Seniors Shield: Paul Butterworth 39pts, 2 Stan Rawlings 35pts, 3 Derrick Arthur 34pts.

Welshpool Seniors had a third place finish in the Mile End Seniors Team Invitation with Derrick Arthur and Graham Moss second in the individual scores.

Townend eyeing win

DUDLESTON-HEATH equestrian star Oliver Townend will be at the Bolesworth Classic this week.

The show, with a total prize fund of £70,000, runs from today until Sunday at Bolesworth Castle, between Chester and Whitechurch.

Townend will be in action in the Express Eventing qualifier on Saturday while there will also be plenty of entertainment for spectators with everything from music to food on offer.

Townend heads into the event on the back of a third-place finish on Neo du Breuil at the Bramham International Horse Trials in Yorkshire.

German eventer Kai Rueder took first place in the event.

Super Oswestry net first win of season

OSWESTRY Tennis Club's men's first team kick-started their season with a decisive victory over Boughy Gardens this morning in the summer league.

Having gained promotion to division three last year and lost key players, the team had struggled to date having lost its first three matches.

However the squad made short work of Newport-based Boughy Gardens.

Simon Pierpoint and Dave Liston opened up for Oswestry and convincingly beat the Gardens first pair 6-2, 6-3 to open the match in style.

The Oswestry second pairing of captain Simon Jackson and Chris Powell made a slow start in their match, losing the first set 6-3.

But they moved up several gears to win the second set 6-0 and maintained the momentum to win the deciding super tie-break to win the rubber.

In the reverse rubbers Pierpoint and Liston again made short work of their opposition outplaying them to win 6-2, 6-3.

And it was then left to Jackson and Powell to complete the route by winning a topsy turvy rubber by 6-2, 2-6 and 1-0.

The victory means the club pick up the maximum eight points from the fixture.

SPORT

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Bowls
All the latest
Oswestry action
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www.oswestrychronicle.com

It may only be June but Saints are back!

THE New Saints step up the Europa League preparations when they take on Ynys Mon in their first summer friendly at Park Hall on Sunday (2pm).

The match is the perfect chance for both sides to get some much needed match action as Ynys Mon, a representative side from Anglesey, will be taking part in the 14th NatWest Island Games on the Isle of Wight later this month.

And it's the ideal run-out for the Welsh Premier runners-up who are gearing up for their Europa League first qualifying round tie on Thursday, June 30.

"It will be a good test for us as they'll have a good side out," said director of football Mike Davies.

"Training has gone well, we could have done with longer off, but that's something we've got to put up with. We've got three good friendlies before our first Europa League game, the most we could have expected to fit in."

The Saints have a couple of triallists training, and may look to sign at least one early next week.

Meanwhile defender Tommy Holmes has followed his brother Danny out of the club after the defender was released.

Does anyone fancy a paddle?



Some of the 250 competitors at the Ellesmere Triathlon get ready to enter the water ahead of the event on Saturday. It was won by London's Darren Milne who completed the 1,500 metre swim, 50km bike ride and 10km run in 1 hour 58 minutes 28 seconds. Trismart's Andrew Birch performed well to finish 40th in 2:06:24.

Welshpool have grounds for optimism ahead of new term

A NEW chairman and a new pitch – those were the two main developments as Welshpool rugby club held their annual meeting at the end of a disappointing campaign.

Relegated from the Swalec Welsh League division two (north) last term, the Maesydre side will be banking on improved playing fortunes in division three next season.

And club stalwart Mel John has taken over as the new chairman, replacing Gary Williams who will be concentrating on his work as fixture secretary.

"Mel has served on the committee ever since the club was reformed in 1967," said the outgoing Williams.

"In that time, he has held a variety of positions including that of chairman. He has initially taken over for 12 months. As for me, I prefer to do the writing, not the talking."

John's vice chairman will be Steve Patfield, who is also club treasurer.

Meanwhile, Welshpool will literally have grounds for optimism as they move closer to purchasing a second pitch, situated behind their present, council-owned pitch.

Purchased with the help of grants from the Sports Council of Wales and the WRU's Millennium Trust, it is hoped the pitch will be ready for the start of the 2012-13 season, allowing two sides to play at the same time.

After a dismal season, Welshpool are hoping to appoint a new coach but, despite advertising and approaching a couple of potential candidates, have yet to fill the void.

There is also no decision on who will captain the sides next season with an announcement due once the players have begun pre-season training.

Promoted Llanrhaeadr can finally celebrate

LLANRHAEDR are finally savouring promotion to the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance after winning their appeal in front of an FA of Wales panel.

Despite winning the Spar Mid Wales League division one, the villagers were refused a chance to step up a level as Cymru Alliance chiefs said their ground did not meet the required criteria.

But Llanrhaeadr insisted they had carried out all the necessary work and, after submitting their evidence, heard they had overturned the decision.

Although the Cymru Alliance have 10 days in which to lodge an appeal, it seems unlikely that will happen.

"Everyone at the club is delighted, justice has been done," said secretary Huw Williams.

"We felt we had a good case to answer all along. Having won the league, we felt we deserved to be promoted."

"But now, all being well, we can look forward to the challenges of playing in the Cymru Alliance next season."

"It's amazing to think how far the club has come. We have gone from strength to strength."

But manager Mario Iaquineta has suffered a setback with assistant boss Jamie Davies left to become manager of Llansantffraid Village where he will replace Ray Jones.

KNIGHT IS NAMED WELSHPOOL BOSS

ADAM Knight has been handed the task of reviving Welshpool Town's fortunes when the club play in the Spar Mid Wales League for the first time in 20 years next season.

Knight steered the club's reserve side to the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division two title last term, and is seen as the ideal person to take over from first team boss Chris Herbert who resigned last week. He will become the club's fifth manager in a turbulent 12 months.

With Knight stepping up, the club have now decided to disband their reserve team ahead of their Spar Mid Wales League campaign.

Secretary Liam Pritchard confirmed that Knight will be the new first team boss.

"Adam is a good local lad and has a ready-made local side for next season as we look to re-connect with the local community," he said.

"We are delighted that he has agreed to become manager, with the first team and reserves becoming one next season."

Even Herbert, on leaving the club, felt Knight was the ideal person to fill the void.

"They already have a ready-made replacement there in Adam Knight," he said.

"He has done a brilliant job with the reserves this season and has players capable of making the step up."

While being boss of the reserves in the last two seasons, right back Knight also has seen first team experience as a player when turning out under the then manager Huw Griffiths in the Welsh Premier.

Meanwhile, previous boss Herbert remains on the lookout for a new post after missing out on the vacant manager's job at Conwy United.

Herbert sensationally quit the Maesydre club last week despite appearing to pledge his short term future to a side which he planned to rebuild in the Spar Mid Wales League next season.

And he feels he has plenty to offer any prospective employers.

He said: "It was a tough decision to leave Welshpool, particularly because I really wanted to stay on for next season and build a team that would challenge for promotion back to the Cymru Alliance," he said.

"I had a few offers from Alliance clubs that I turned down which, now looking at it, I shouldn't have."

"I just hope that I can get straight back in to management quickly. I don't want to just go off the radar as I feel I have a lot to offer."

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Welshpool for giving me the opportunity to manage their club."

"I really hope that over the next few seasons they can restock and start moving back in the direction they belong."

by John Bridgwater



The one that got away Oswestry's Warrick Fynn sets off for a run after a delivery from Studley's Gaggendeep Singh in the Birmingham League clash

Go fourth and prosper

OSWESTRY go gunning for a fourth straight win in the Birmingham Premier League division three when they travel to struggling Shropshire rivals St Georges on Saturday.

The border men made the trip in good heart after consolidating second spot in the table with last Saturday's 60-run win over Studley, just six points adrift of leaders Barnards Green.

And they will have high hopes of stretching that run in the trip to Telford side St Georges, who are still looking for their first win following three losses in their first six outings.

But skipper Mark Robinson, whose 70 last week helped his side to victory against Studley, knows the visitors will not be taking anything for granted.

"After the last two weeks in which we have won three games, our heart is set on trying to win the league so we won't have any complacency," he said.

"It was a big win for us last week and hopefully we can go to St Georges and come away with a maximum 24 points as we want to stay in the top two and stay clear of the teams below us."

"St Georges have struggled this season, they have lost some key players, but they have got a good overseas pro (Brendan O'Keefe) who scored a century last week, so his will be a key wicket for us."

Young all rounder Robbie Clarke steps up for a taste of first team action, with Ian Davies switching to the seconds.

● For a full report see page 94

Crunch clash for cricketers

WELSHPOOL face a crunch clash at home to Condover on Saturday as they battle to avoid being sucked into the basement places in the FBC Manby Bowlder Shropshire League division one.

A glance at the league tables illustrates the importance of Saturday's action, with Pool – lying fourth from bottom – just four points above their visitors.

And club spokesman Joe Birch admits it's an important weekend for the Mid Wales men.

"It's a big game, one we're targeting to win if we're going to get up the table," he said.

Phil Lewis is set to return to bolster the batting while midweek batsman Rob Pengelly could also be included.

● For a full report and all the latest action from the FBC Manby Bowlder League see pages 94-95.

Crash horror for TT rider

AN ISLE OF Man superbike rider, backed by an Oswestry company, broke both ankles in a horror crash on the island this week.

Mark Perrett, who is backed by Phil Morris Racing of Oswestry, crashed off the TT circuit during the weather-hit 600 Super Sport race.

"It was a horrible crash and Mark had to be airlifted to hospital," said Phil Morris from the trackside.

"The weather has brought racing to a halt and we can only hope that Mark's injuries are not too serious."

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